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Further Reportage on PBEC Congress in Seoul

Philippines' Ramos on 'Security Forum'

HK2505035893 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 25 May 93 pp 1, 6

[Report by Manny Mogato]

[Text] President Ramos yesterday proposed a smaller forum in the Asia-Pacific region that would focus on settling differences and security problems in the area, like the dispute over islands in the South China Sea. "This initial step I propose for our immediate consideration at government and non-government levels," the President said during a speech at the opening of the Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC) meeting in Seoul. "Because security issues are complex and often area specific, an Asia-Pacific-wide security forum appears impractical for the moment," he said.

What is needed, he said, is "a forum—or forums—where groups of countries within APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Councill] can thresh out sub-regional differences and security problems." The President said a smaller regional forum is needed because of the changing security picture that emerged after the Cold War. "In our part of the world," the President said, "the shifts in big-power arrangements have generated national uncertainties that countries of the region themselves must allay."

The President said the existing post-ministerial conference of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) could be one such forum. The conference has been the venue for numerous dialogues and meetings between Asean members and its dialogue partners, like Japan, Korea and even the United States. Mr Ramos even suggested inviting China, Russia, and Vietnam to future meetings of the conference because of their critical impact on the region's security.

To address the greater problems and implications of regionalism and globalism, the President proposed a summit of Asia-Pacific heads of governemnt similar to the 1955 Bandung Conference, where 29 Asian and African countries met to promote world peace and cooperation. The President suggested Bandung in Indonesia as a site for the proposed summit.

"I think it is time we start to sort out the precise relationships of these various Asia-Pacific fora," the President said. He suggested that Asia-Pacific heads of government sit together in a group consensus similar to what the Indonesians call "musjawarah" to resolve political and economic differences.

The President said the region needs both regional and subregional forums to "ensure that businessmen can trade, produce, build and interact in peace and tranquility." He urged other Asean and other Pacific countries to speed up the process of organizing various circles of economic and political cooperation, like the Malaysian proposal for an East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC).

The United States, however, appeared lukewarm toward the EAEC because it tends to isolate them from an East Asian market. To non-members of the Asean and other regional economic and political groupings like Myanmar and Vietnam, he said "our best approach is not 'containment" but 'engagement'." "We need to draw them into the web of regional collaboration that shapes our common interests, reinforce our common values and regulates our own common behavior," he said.

The President was among the top three Asia-Pacific leaders who addressed the PBEC confernce this year. Close to a thousand businessmen from four countries, including some from Latin America, are attending. Others who addressed the PBEC were Korean President Kim Young Sam and Malaysian Prime Minister Mohamad Mahathir.

Kim said his government would embark on a period of "new diplomacy" that would include seeking security cooperation between Asia-Pacific countries. "It is an active diplomacy based on morality," he said, saying it will emphasize universal values as democracy, liberty, welfare and human rights.

The President's call for a subregional dialogue to thresh out differences and security problems was apparently directed at Malaysia and other countries claiming the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea. The country has had bonder disputes with Malaysia and a two-decade-old territorial problem regarding Sabah.

The President had a chance to discuss these issues with Mahathir last night at a private meeting at the Seoul Hilton hotel. The President had a hectic day yesterday, his second day on a four-day state visit. After addressing the PBEC at the Seoul Arts Center, he received a business delegation from the Halta business group and Kia Motors Corp. He also witnessed the signing of a joint venture agreement between the Halta business group and Apo Cement.

At lunch time, he was hosted by the Daewoo Corp, at Seoul Hilton. He later visited the Anam semi-conductor plant at Huwayang Dong. In the afternoon, he received another business delegation from Hyundai and Maxon business groups. On the evening, he attended the PBEC welcome dinner at the Hyatt Regency hotel.

Today, the President's official two-day visit will begin with bilateral talks with Seoul on trade and investment, security and political issues. Three agreements are to be signed today with Seoul: an extradition treaty, a transfer of 12 80-foot coastal patrol boats and an agrarian cooperative agreement.

Malaysian Minister on ASEAN Trade Group

BK2605105393 Singapore BUSINESS TIMES in English 26 May 93 p 4

[by Florence Chong in Seoul]

[Text] ASEAN is not quite ready to start a free trade area this year, said Malaysia's outspoken Minister for International Trade and Industry, Rafidah Aziz, yesterday. She urged ASEAN members to make a concerted effort to address the problems stalling the implementation of Afta (ASEAN Free Trade Area).

She said: "There was an euphoria about starting Afta very quickly from the beginning of 1993. It appears now that except for Malaysia and Singapore, the other countries do not seem to accept 1993 as the acceptable starting date in order to begin with effective tariff cuts. "It now appears that some ASEAN countries would only start to reduce their tariffs effectively from 1999."

Ms Rafidah told international businessmen attending the Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC) meeting here: "We are going through the pains of adjustment towards realising a free trade area as well as recognising certain problems that ASEAN will have to address quickly." She spoke of the need to "accommodate intergovernmental interests" and pressure from domestic producers faced with the prospects of tariff cuts and reduced protection.

Ms Rafidah said that the wide tariff disparity that existed among ASEAN countries themselves created problems in bringing tariffs down to a common level in order to create a level playing field. She suspected some "feet-dragging" among members in taking the hard decisions—and some had indeed hoped to delay reducing most of their tariffs to 1999—could stall its implementation.

Ms Rafidah said there were problems in areas such as harmonising customs codes and bringing in standardised regulations and rules. The problem of tariff classifications, for instance, was complex, with more than 44,000 different tariff lines. Malaysia alone has 11,746 tariff lines and this alone would be quite "a mouthful" for the private sector to chew when deciding the products for which tariff cuts were to be made.

However, while Ms Rafidah had highlighted the problems with Afta, she said that the most important thing was that the mechanism was in place and "we hope that within 15 years we will be able to match the dynamic markets of both the EC and Nafta" [North American Free Trade Agreement]. Also speaking at the same session, Australia's Minister for Tourism and Resources Michael Lee, said Australia was concerned that regional groupings like Afta and Nafta could divert trade and investment away from other economies.

He said that with the exception of Singapore which maintained one of the most open trading arrangements in the world, tariffs imposed by ASEAN countries were generally high. Unless market liberalisation by ASEAN countries also proceeded on a multilateral basis, Afta could also result in trade diversion.

Council Meeting Closes 26 May

SK2605060493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0506 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 26 (YONHAP)—The 26th international general meeting of the Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC) ended Wednesday after adopting a conference statement that says growing regionalism in the world economy should contribute to an open multilateral trading system, not undermine it. The statement stressed the need for the Pacific Basin to play a greater role in international economic leadership as the new "powerhouse" of the global economy.

"PBEC also continues to support the goals of APEC (the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) to provide a regional structure for strengthening cooperative economic relations between government and business," it said. The PBEC called on the APEC to strengthen its efforts to reduce informal as well as formal barriers to trade and investment in the region. It called for an early and successful conclusion of the uruguay round trade talks, saying "PBEC hopes that the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of GATT will ensure an effective multilateral framework for strengthening global trade relations."

The meeting was attended by 700-odd political and business leaders from 23 countries. During the five-day session, the summit leaders of South Korea, Malaysia and Philippine and ministers of six countries held separate meetings. North Korea did not attend, contrary to expectations, and China was unable to join because of the objections of Taiwan. The next general meeting is in Kuala Lumpur on May 21-25, 1994.

Japan

Minister Hayashi: Yen's Rise 'Speculative'

OW2605045793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0400 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi said Wednesday the Japanese yen's steep rise against the U.S. dollar is speculative and the Group of Seven (G-7) nations will concertedly take action to stabilize the exchange rate. Hayashi, addressing the House of Representatives Budget Committee, said the yen's rapid appreciation will have a negative impact on Japan's economy and the G-7 nations share a common understanding that stability of the foreign exchange market is essential.

The yen rose sharply against the U.S. dollar Wednesday morning in Tokyo, hitting a record high of 108.67 yen at one point. The dollar was quoted at 108.83 yen at the end of the morning session, down 1.73 yen from Tuesday's close in Tokyo.

The yen's renewed advance was triggered by remarks Tuesday by a U.S. Treasury report, released Tuesday, taken taken as supporting a higher yen to help curb Japan's mounting trade surplus with the U.S.

Mieno: U.S. Foreign Exchange Policy Unchanged

OW2605063393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0615 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—The governor of the Bank of Japan said Wednesday he has received confirmation from the U.S. Federal Reserve Board that there is no change in its foreign exchange policy.

Speaking at the House of Representatives Budget Committee, Yasushi Mieno attributed the yen's abrupt gains against the dollar to a misinterpretation of a U.S. Treasury Department report released Tuesday. The report, submitted to the Congress by U.S. Treasury Undersecretary Lawrence Summers, said stronger yen could contribute to trimming Japan's huge trade surplus with the United States.

The dollar was quoted at 108.[illegible]7 yen at 2 p.m., down 1.79 yen from Tuesday's close in Tokyo.

'Official': Clinton Neglecting Developing World

OW2605072693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0712 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—The United States under President Bill Clinton is not fulfilling its full potential to solve the problems of developing countries, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday. "I can't imagine the U.S. taking the initiative," Deputy Foreign Minister Koiciro Matsuura told a symposium on Japan's official development assistance (ODA).

Matsuura said the Clinton administration, concentrating on domestic economic renewal, has drastically lowered the high priority the U.S. once attached to the issue of reducing the gap between the industrial North and the developing South. He said Japan's role in resolving the North-South problem is correspondingly on the rise.

Matsuura said Japan is likely to again emerge as the world's top ODA donor when figures for 1992 are released by the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). He noted that in 1991, Japan's 10.9 billion dollar contribution exceeded the U.S. offer of 9.4 billion dollars.

Matsuura said Japan has "taken the initiative" itself by placing the problems of developing countries high on the agenda of the July 7-9 summit meeting of the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial countries.

Muto Views Verdict on Shooting of Teen in U.S.

OW2605104593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1002 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—Foreign Minister Kabun Muto said Wednesday he "greatly regrets" there can be no appeal against a Louisiana jury's acquittal of a Baton Rouge man who shot dead a Japanese teenager. "For my part, I'd like to sound out the U.S. Government and see if there might not be some scope for considering something in some form," Muto said.

Muto made the remarks in the Diet in reply to a query from a member of the opposition party Komeito, but a top Foreign Ministry official was quick to tell reporters afterwards that Muto was merely expressing a personal opinion.

"There has been no decision to make any approach (to the U.S. Government)," the official said. "Japan accepts the decision reached after due legal process in the United States."

Yoshihiro Hattori, 16, and an American companion were looking for a Halloween party in Baton Rouge on October 17 when they mistakenly rang the doorbell of meat market manager Rodney Peairs.

Peairs, 31, responding to his wife's screams at the appearance of the two boys, took out a handgun and fired at Hattori after the Japanese allegedly failed to heed his warning to "freeze." Peairs was acquitted of manslaughter Sunday by a 12-member jury.

Tokyo Seeks Postelection Meeting on Cambodia

OW2605043693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0302 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—Japan has begun to sound out France and other countries on convening an international conference to discuss the postelection situation in Cambodia, Foreign Minister Kabun Muto said Wednesday.

Muto made the remarks at a session of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee. He said the conference will discuss the role of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) after the general election, which is due to end Friday, and the reconstruction of the war-torn country.

Japan hosted an international conference on Cambodia's rehabilitation and reconstruction last June, in which international donors pledged 880 million dollars to rebuild the country.

Public Said To Support Peacekeeping in Cambodia

OW2605045693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0346 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—Government spokesman Yohei Kono said Wednesday he believes there is wide public support for Japan's "test case" involvement in peacekeeping operations in Cambodia, despite the deaths of two Japanese. The high voter turnout and relative smooth execution of elections so far seem to have made many Japanese feel that "the effort was meaningful," Chief Cabinet Secretary Kono told a news conference.

Media polls conducted before the election began Sunday indicated that many Japanese wanted to withdraw from the operations in the wake of the killings of two Japanese nationals.

"We have opened a page in international contribution," Kono said, expressing gratitude to all Japanese who participated in the peacekeeping operations, as well as the chief of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), Japanese national Yasushi Akashi.

Asked whether he believes Japanese public would support participation in future operations of the same kind if there were a possibility of loss of life, Kono replied that "we must proceed with extreme caution."

Noting that elections, due to end Friday, are not yet completed, Kono warned against letting down the guard against possible disruptions.

He reiterated that Japan is eager to move up the July 13 date for the return of Japanese policemen in Cambodia, but refused to say under what conditions that would be possible, or what the goals of such a move would be.

Japan has been seeking ways to safeguard its police officers in the U.N. mission following the May 4 killing of Haruyuki Takata, one of 75 police serving in Cambodia.

UNTAC Allows Ill Policemen To Return Home

OW2605105993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1034 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—Four police officers who evacuated their post in northeast Cambodia after a colleague was killed earlier this month are to return to Japan for medical treatment, the government said Wednesday.

The U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) has approved a request for their return after determining that it is "appropriate for the police officers to undergo treatment in Japan," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono said.

Kono declined to reveal the nature of the illness of the hospitalized men for reasons of privacy. He also declined to provide their names, citing government policy of not revealing assignments for individual peacekeepers to prevent possible harassment of their families.

The move appears to defuse a standoff between Japan and UNTAC, which initially ordered the men to return to their posts in the northwestern province of Oddar Meanchey on Thailand-Cambodia border.

The four men left for Phnom Penh after the killing of their colleague, Haruyuki Takata, 33, in an ambush. The men, whose supplies were looted, complained of poor health and a lack of food and water.

The men said they would rather give up their profession in Japan than return to their assigned location, which was regarded as dangerous, according to government sources. Tokyo expressed concern at the time that the men would be dubbed deserters if they returned to Japan, but it did not want to pressure them to resume their original duties.

UNTAC cleared the way for their retirement from the peacekeeping force after they submitted health certificates, the sources said.

The officers—an assistant police inspector from the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department, an assistant inspector from the Tokushima Prefectural Police Headquarters and one police sergeant each from prefectural police forces in Gunma and Kochi—are expected to arrive in Japan this week.

They were dispatched last October as part of Japan's 75-person contribution to the 3,500 member U.N. civilian police force.

Tokyo is seeking the early return of all its civilian police officers, whose terms of duty end on July 13.

Police sources said the officers are Shinichi Hirabayashi, 38, an assistant inspector from the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department, Takashi Ogura, 37, an assistant inspector from the Tokushima Prefectural Police Headquarters, Makoto Sakurai, 31, a sergeant from Gunma Prefectural Headquarters and Shusaburo Fujitani, 29, a sergeant from Kochi Prefectural Police Headquarters.

Among the four, Hirabayashi had been robbed of an UNTAC car and cash by an unidentified armed group around Ampil, Oddar Meanchey Province, on April 14. He was not injured in the attack.

Yeltsin Aide Interviewed on Russian Economy

OW2605124393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1224 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—A senior advisor to Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Wednesday condemned parliamentary opponents of his boss for slowing down privatization of Russia's huge monopolistic state-run enterprises.

Former Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar said in an interview with KYODO News Service and other Japanese news organizations in Tokyo that parliamentary conservatives have blocked the Yeltsin administration from placing curbs on the printing of trillions of Russian ruble notes.

"Although the cabinet of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin (Yeltsin's ally) has not renounced reform policies, it cannot implement a tighter monetary and fiscal policy as long as the current parliament is dominated by conservatives opposing reforms," gaydar said.

The advisor on economic policy affairs warned that the speed of an avowed privatization of state-run enterprises has recently shown a marked slowdown.

The Russian Government has provided huge amounts of subsidiaries to such state-run enterprises. Some Western economists have urged Russia to put a brake on its high levels of fiscal subsidization, saying that in continuing the policy the Russian central bank had to print vast amounts of ruble notes, triggering hyperinflation.

The economists have called for a control of the money supply as a prerequisite of Western aid for Ussia, arguing that the Group of Seven industrial nations' huge official credits to Moscow would be squandered unless Moscow curbed its fiscal spending to finance the monetary needs of these state-run enterprises.

Gaydar in the interview tried to soften major Western industrial democracies' anxieties about inflation, saying that the most recent monthly rate of inflation slowed down to 15 to 16 percent—about half the rate of January.

He called on Russian voters to expel parliamentary conservatives from the Congress of People's Deputies by adopting a new constitution that would give greater power to Yeltsin in staving off dissent from the parliament.

"At present, President Yeltsin is pumping all of his energy into efforts to adopt a new constitution," Gaydar said.

He underscored that if Yeltsin should succeed in creating a new parliament controlled by reformers through an election under a new constitution, it would eliminate a major obstacle hampering economic reforms.

Recently Yeltsin unilaterally scheduled a "constitutional conference" for June 5, rebuffing demand from his parliamentary foes who called for postponing such a conference until autumn.

Gaydar also called for moving forward the date of a parliamentary election to rid the parliament of conservative legislators as quickly as possible.

Tokyo, Moscow To Exchange Aircraft Engine Data

OW2605074493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0645 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—The Japanese aerospace industry said Wednesday it has agreed with the Russian Government to exchange information on the development of new engines for commercial airliners.

The Society of Japanese Aerospace Companies said the agreement was contained in a memorandum exchanged between the two parties. Under the agreement, the Japanese industry has access to advanced aircraft engine experimental facilities in Russia, the society said.

Both parties will cooperate in training aerospace engineers, while senior officials of the Russian industry will be invited to Japan to provide training for Japanese experts, the association said.

Tokyo To Propose Sino-Japanese Security Talks

OW2605111993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1047 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—Foreign Minister Kabun Muto will propose a new framework for Sino-Chinese dialogue on regional security when he meets Saturday with his Chinese counterpart, Qian Qichen, government sources said Wednesday.

The sources said the first such talks could be held as early as July if Qian, who will visit Japan from May 29 to June 1, accepts the proposal. They said the aim of the talks is to boost confidence between the two neighboring countries, which is deemed especially important due to the changing international situation following the demise of the Soviet Union.

Japan hopes the talks will deal with North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons development program and the process of developing a regional dialogue on security, sources said.

The talks could also provide an opportunity for an exchange of views on the two countries' defense programs, they said. Japan is concerned about China's yearly double-digit increases in military spending since 1989, as well as its recent military modernization and expansion.

Tokyo is expected to ask Beijing to release relevant information regarding its military buildup. China's defense budget for fiscal 1993 posted a 14.9 per cent increase from the preceding year.

Sources said the proposed talks would involve senior officials from Japan's Foreign Ministry and Defense Agency, and possibly uniformed personnel of the Self-Defense Forces (SDF).

In his meeting with Qian, Muto is also expected to discuss the post-election situation in Cambodia and the need for the international community to extend economic and humanitarian assistance.

The upcoming U.S. decision on renewal of China's most favored nation (MFN) privileged trading status may also be on the agenda, sources said.

Muto may also object to Beijing's reported plans to purchase an aircraft carrier, presumably to bolster its presence and territorial claims in the South China Sea, the sources said.

China, which has denied the aircraft carrier report, claims sovereignty over the vast Spratly Islands, believed to be rich in offshore oil. All or part of the island chain are also claimed by Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia, Brunei and the Philippines.

Industry Exports to PRC in FY92 Reported

OW2605094493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0838 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—Japan's exports of plants in fiscal 1992 rose 1.6 percent from the previous year to 11.79 billion dollars, with those bound for China more than doubling, the trade ministry said Wednesday [26 May].

Exports of plants worth more than 500,000 dollars each topped the 10 billion dollar level in the fiscal year ended March 31 for the fourth successive year, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry said.

Exports of large plants in the electric power and chemical sectors, which posted a yearly increase in the previous fiscal year, decreased in fiscal 1992, while general plants such as facilities to produce electric machinery were in good demand, it said.

By destination, shipments to Asian nations, except China, dropped 11.2 percent from the year before to 5.61 billion dollars because Indonesia restrained investment. For China, whose economy has steadily grown, exports jumped 2.2 times.

For fiscal 1993, which ends next March 31, the ministry expects plant exports to remain unchanged at around 11 billion dollars because of good demand for electric power, chemical, and environmental equipment plants mainly in Asia.

Tokyo To Give Technical Aid to SRV Port Town

OW2605094093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0901 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—Japan will provide technical assistance to preserve part of a central Vietnamese port town which once had a Japanese residential quarter, Cultural Affairs Agency officials said Wednesday.

Beginning as early as next fall, Japan will help prevent from decaying about 600 houses and other structures in Hoi An, a town near Da Nang. Hoi An was a base for trade with Japan and China in the 16th and 17th centuries.

According to the officials, many Japanese trade ships used to stop at the town. Today, some signs of the Japanese presence remain. A bridge in the area is called Japan Bridge and there are several old Japanese graves.

After investigating the houses in 1991 and 1992, the agency found the houses—most of them Chinese-style and thought to have been built in the 19th century—valuable enough to be preserved. Most of the houses to be preserved are made of wood and have tile roofs and brick walls plastered with stucco.

"It is significant that buildings in a style of valuable architecture remained in such a hot and humid climate," one official said.

The agency will send technical experts to teach a Vietnamese staff how to preserve the town.

HDTV Broadcasting Accord Signed With Indonesia

BK2505142693 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1330 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 25 (ANTARA)—Indonesia and Japan have reached an agreement to cooperate in promoting High Definition Television (HDTV) broadcasting system using direct broadcasting system (DBS) satellite, an advanced and economic way to cover the world's largest archipelago.

The agreement was signed by the Minister of Information, Harmoko and the NHK [Nippon Hoso Kyokai] Corp. in Tokyo Monday.

He said that the agreement will be followed up by the sending of Indonesian technicians to Japan.

The minister said that the agreement is very important for Indonesia because Japan has developed HDTV for 30 years and has applied it in the last four years. He stressed that Indonesia needed to learn the HDTV system as from now.

He acknowledged that Indonesia has never done any research on HDTV but Indonesia has for long time utilized satellite in its broadcasting and has allowed the public to use parabolic antenna.

Indonesia needs to master such sophisticated technology in order to deal with the current globalisation era. "Satellite broadcasting system cannot be restricted and cannot be avoided," he stressed.

Indonesia has since 1977 been using communication satellite system and it will be further expanded by the participation of the private sector in handling such a system by 1995. The urgent thing now is how to coordinate and synchronise the broadcasting equipment and system in Indonesia, he added.

According to Harmoko, Japan appreciates the Indonesian policy in upgrading the hardware and software of the broadcasting system to anticipate globalisation era. Besides, Indonesia is considered to have been able to anticipate the possible competition from the transnational television networks.

Commenting on Japanese question on the Indonesian courage to develop satellite broadcasting system, Harmoko said the Indonesian people have their own concept to deter possible negative impacts arisen from the satelite broadcasting system.

Indonesia has projected the introduction of the HDTV system in the future because the development of conventional transmission system has been hampered by its vast archipelagic territory leaving many areas uncovered by both radio and television broadcasts.

Former LDP Leader Discusses PKO, Reform

OW2605015893

[Editorial Report] Tokyo FNN Television Network in Japanese at 2314 GMT on 22 May carries, during its weekly "News 2001" program, a 13-minute interview with former Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) General Secretary Ichiro Ozawa. The program is moderated by newscasters Yuji Kuroiwa and Kaori Matsuyama and is attended by its regular guests—freelance commentator Kenichi Takemua and Keio University Professor Yoshiaki Kobayashi.

Kuroiwa begins by asking Ozawa about problems relating to Japan's peacekeeping operations (PKO) in Cambodia. Kuroiwa recalls Ozawa has called the Miyazawa administration's actions regarding the PKO as being "bogged down in the mud and bureaucracy." Kuroiwa asks Ozawa what he thinks is the most important thing Japanese politicians should do now.

Ozawa replies: "I think that question concerns what Japan should do if it wants to continue living in peace and abundance." He adds: "Speaking about the Cambodian issues, there are many discussions going on in Japan now about Cambodia, but all of them are carried out in disarray and confusion. Japan has lost precious lives there. Such pros and cons in disarray can never console the spirits of the deceased." Ozawa continues: "Discussions should be carried out in an orderly manner—to reply to the question of how Japan should live and what it should become. Once that is done, the government should explain to the nation the outcome and conclusion reached from the discussions. If that had been the way the government carried out things to date, there would not have been these ongoing directionless, fruitless debates. Even now, it is not too late to start discussions in a more orderly manner. Yes, I think discussions should be carried out in an orderly manner."

In response to Kuroiwa's question on what Japan should do if the Self-Defense Force (SDF) troops now in Cambodia are given new assignments by the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), Ozawa says: "My position is that if the assignments come as a formal UNTAC or UN order asking our troops to do this and that under contingency situations, then the troops should accept them and do as requested by UNTAC, even though the troops might have been originally dispatched there to build roads or bridges." He adds: "It would be completely absurd if the Japanese Government, whose nation is participating in the UN PKO, issued its own instructions to the troops irrespective of those of the United Nations. Such actions can bring about very dangerous results. That is how I feel."

Kuroiwa brings up the subject of political reform. "Watching recent developments in the Diet, some people are beginning to feel that enthusiasm about political reform bills is rapidly cooling down in the Diet. While that is the situation, you issued the day before yesterday an emergency message urging the prime minister to make a decision on the reforms." He asks Ozawa to explain the reason for issuing the message.

Ozawa says: "There are now problems arising that this nation has not faced before—such as the problem of what Japan should do about issues related to Cambodia, how it should participate in the UN PKO efforts, and so forth. There is the question of how Japan can protect itself and can continue to prosper. The era now is when we have to think about all these things by ourselves and to carry them out by ourselves.

"This means we have come to a time when we have to depart from what may be called the post-war politics of dependency. Since the war, there has been no transfer of government power nor has there been any urgent need for it." He insists that electoral reform is a key to a change in overall reforms, and says: "The most effective method to bring about a change in the politics of Japan is to change the election system." He admits that many legislators do not want a change in the election system because they do not want to have their vested interests taken away.

Ozawa adds: "But can Japan continue living as it is now? I am not saying this in reference to the Cambodian or the

UN PKO issues only. Let me tell you that I think, for instance, even Japanese- U.S. relations are now in very serious condition."

Ozawa To Support Watanabe in LDP Election

OW2605134193 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1048 GMT 26 May 93

[From the "NHK News 7" program]

[Text] Ichiro Ozawa, former general secretary of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] and leader of the LDP Hata faction, held talks with former Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe on 26 May. In their talks, Mr. Ozawa called on Mr. Watanabe to run for the LDP presidential election scheduled for this fall, and stated that, if Mr. Watanabe does run for the election, he will give full support. The meeting was held at a hospital where Mr. Watanabe is staying.

In reply, Mr. Watanabe indicated his eagerness to run for the LDP presidential election, saying that, as a matter of course, he will do so.

Survey: Miyazawa Cabinet Support '21.9 Percent'

OW2605045593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0429 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 26 KYODO—Public support for the cabinet of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa remained low at 21.9 percent this month, a KYODO News Service survey showed Wednesday. The figure was up only 1.5 percentage points from a similar poll in March.

KYODO analysts said the killing of two Japanese peacekeepers in Cambodia in early April and early May, and the uncertain prospect of political reform at home contributed to the low approval rate for the Miyazawa cabinet.

The survey was conducted Saturday and Sunday among 3,000 randomly selected voters aged 20 or over across the country, of whom 1,990 or 66.3 percent responded. Of the respondents, 48.6 percent were men and 51.4 percent were women.

The support rate for the cabinet registered in KYODO polls has drifted between around 15 percent and just above 20 percent since it dropped to 16.1 percent last December from a level of 30 percent before that.

The disapproval rating in May came to 70.2 percent, down [illegible].5 percentage points from the March poll. As reasons for disapproval, 40.1 percent said Miyazawa has showed no leadership, 19 percent said they could not expect achievement of political reform, and 17.5 percent said they did not trust him.

The support rate for the governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), however, rose to 38.7 percent, up 2.2 percentage points from March, although below 40 percent for the second time in a row.

The Japan New Party (JNP), set up in May last year, gained a support rate of 11.7 percent, up from 11.2 percent in March.

But the No. 1 opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP) saw its support rate drop from 15.1 percent to 13.1 percent.

Support for Komeito was 3.7 percent, for the Japanese Communist Party 2.7 percent and for the Democratic Socialist Party 2.5 percent.

The JNP, a new conservative party, is led by Morihiro Hosokawa, former governor of Kumamoto Prefecture. It won four seats in the House of Councillors election last July and hopes to win seats in the House of Representatives election expected to be held later this year.

Bank Head Mieno Says Economic Data 'Mixed'

OW2505110993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0757 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 25 KYODO—Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno Tuesday reiterated his view that the nation's economy may start recovering moderately in the last half of the current fiscal year.

Speaking to the National Association of Shinkin Banks, Mieno said the economy is nearing a bottoming out phase, with dark and bright data mixed. "Conditions for an economic recovery are gradually building up in private-sector businesses," Mieno said, adding the economy "may enter into a moderate recovery stage" later in the current fiscal year, which ends on March 31.

Turning to the yen-dollar rate on foreign exchange dealings, Mieno stressed the importance of a stable yen, saying, "The yen's appreciation may cause a deflation impact from a short-term perspective with deteriorating earnings of exporters." The central bank head said he would keep a careful eye on developments, taking into account effects of a stronger yen on corporate confidence.

Mieno urged Shinkin banks to maintain healthy management strategies by steadily liquidating and collecting bad assets, referring to Monday's announcement that Kamaishi Shinkin Bank, a financially crippled credit association in Kamaishi, Iwate Prefecture, will be liquidated on September 30.

Mieno said it is important for monetary authorities to support financial institutions' efforts to seek sound management. "We will also make our best efforts to ensure stability in the financial market and whole financial systems," he said.

Satellite Broadcasting Service Reports Debt

OW2505142993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1324 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 25 KYODO—Japan's first and largest private satellite broadcasting service reported

Tuesday its cumulative losses exceeded its capital to hit 50.9 billion yen in the year ended March 31.

Japan Satellite Broadcasting (JSB) said operating revenue, the equivalent of sales at general companies, rose 10.0 percent to 34.6 billion yen thanks to increased subscription. But heavy interest burdens stemming from its 25.4 billion yen debts kept the company in the red, forcing it to post a pretax and net loss of 20 billion yen.

JSB has been struggling to survive as the growth in subscribers has been slower than expected. It recently announced a management shakeout and got a 10 billion yen loan from the Industrial Bank of Japan and other blue-chip companies.

North Korea

Reportage on Nuclear Proliferation Issue Continues

Spokesman Announces Talks With U.S.

SK2605101493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0958 GMT 26 May 93

["DPRK Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Scheduled DPRK- U.S. Talks"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 26 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry, answering a question put by KCNA today regarding the scheduled DPRK-U.S. talks, said:

Talks between the DPRK and the U.S.A. will open in New York on June 2, 1993.

The DPRK delegation will be led by Kang Sok-chu, first vice-minister of foreign affairs, and the U.S. delegation by Robert L. Gallucci, assistant secretary of state for political-military affairs.

Matters of common concern including the nuclear problem will be discussed at the talks.

Group Denounces U.S. 'Nuclear Threat'

SK2505213493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1507 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 25 (KCNA)—Yang Un-sik, permanent chairman of the headquarters in Americas of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon), in a recent statement called upon all the Koreans at home and abroad and the peaceloving figures of the world to turn out to defuse the crisis of the Korean peninsula created by the U.S. "nuclear threat".

Yang Un-sik said the North was right in declaring that tolerating the "nuclear racket" and "nuclear threat" of the United States means having its sovereignty and security violated and they would never be tolerated also to defend the sovereignty of the Third World countries.

He urged the U.S. Administration to stop the "nuclear threat" to the North at once, renounce its policies of increasing tensions on the Korean peninsula and making it a nuclear base and to cooperate in realising the North-South agreement and joint declaration on denuclearization.

He also demanded that the U.S. administration put a permanent period to nuclear war exercises like the "Team Spirit", normalise diplomatic relations between the DPRK and the United States, open a DPRK-U.S. high-level political talks to solve the problem of the North's withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and establish true friendly relation with denuclearized, reunified Korea.

Daily Condemns U.S. 'Proliferation'

SK2605112693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1026 GMT 26 May 93

["Who Should Be Called in Question?"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 26 (KCNA)—If the United Nations Security Council respected the principle of international justice and impartiality, it should have called in question not the DPRK, a non-nuclear state, but the United States which is engaged in nuclear proliferation and is presenting nuclear threat to non-nuclear states, declares NODONG SINMUN in an article today.

The author of the article headlined "Who Should Be Called in Question?" Says:

The country that poses biggest nuclear threat to mankind today is the United States that was the first to develop and use nuclear weapons in the world and is possessed of the biggest number of them.

Now tens of thousands of nuclear weapons are deployed in the continental U.S. and the U.S. bases overseas. And it is said that it will have about 17,000 nuclear weapons easy to handle, although a nuclear arms cut is carried out.

The United States has supplied South Africa with technologies, funds and raw materials for the development of nuclear weapons and trained South African nuclear experts. And it helped Israel develop nuclear weapons.

According to a recently published report, Israel has produced 100 or 200 nuclear weapons. The United States keeps mum about Japan's stockpile of a large quantity of plutonium, the main raw material of nuclear weapons, and is encouraging it.

South Korea planned the development of nuclear weapons at the end of 1960's and had secret confabs to purchase a nuclear reprocessing plant from Europe and reached already around 1975 the level of manufacturing nuclear bomb devices within nine months, if it thought needed.

The United States compelled the DPRK to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT). This withdrawal was an unavoidable self-defensive step taken when the DPRK could not longer fulfil its obligations under the treaty and its supreme interests were infringed upon due to the anti-DPRK campaign of the U.S. and its followers.

Now the developing countries are strongly demanding that the nuclear powers, true to their obligations under the NPT, commit themselves to non-use of nuclear weapons against the signatories of the treaty. But this is refused by the U.S. and others nuclear powers.

This tells us that they intend to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear states any time.

If the UN Security Council is to fullfil its duties, it should call in question the nuclear manoeuvrings of the United States and its application of double-standard policy and take a proper measure against it.

Committee Denounces ROK Nuclear Plans

SK2505234993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1531 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 25 (KCNA)—The Korean Anti-Nuke Peace Commitee released a statement on May 25 upon the exposure of the fact that the South Korean authorities are openly stepping up nuclear arms development while raising outcries over the fictitious "nuclear suspicion" against the DPRK.

As was clearly confirmed by the recent indictment published by the Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front, the statement says, the South Korean authorities have put spurs on the nuclear arms development, far from stopping it, since the joint declaration on denuclearisation was adopted and effectuated between the North and the South and are scheming to embark upon open nuclear arming today.

The statement further says:

Open outcries that "South Korea, also, should secure nuclear power" are openly ringing out from the South Korean ruling quarters. The "chairman of the special reunification board of the Democratic Liberal Party" went the length of claiming that "It is high time we also possessed nuclear capacity and the National Assembly must raise louder voices for it", saying that "the North-South joint declaration on denuclearisation has been made null and void in principle".

Our Korean Anti-Nuke Peace Commitee cannot but take a serious view of the fact that open arguments for nuclear arms development are surfacing in the South Korean ruling quarters.

On November 27, 1991, 19 days after they published "declaration on denuclearisation and disarmament for peace on the Korean peninsula" on November 8, the South Korean authorities signed an agreement on reprocessing with britain and have practically introduced plutonium and uranium mixed oxide from Britain.

The ulterior intention of the South Korean authorities to accelerate nuclear arms development and nuclear arming and put them to practical use has been more clearly proven by the fact that the Taedok nuclear research complex, the centre of the nuclear arms development, was completed in November 1992, four or five years ahead of schedule.

The complex which began to be developed from 20 years ago occupies a total area of 8,340,000 pyong and has 65 research institutions and companies. Moreover, this complex is linked with a large-scale underground base in Mt. Kyeryong which is tightly closed as the garrison distict of the Third Army headquarters.

It is clear to everyone that, in light of the motive of its development, its structure and the duties and character of the institutions located there, the Taedok complex is for manufacturing nuclear weapons, not for developing the mountain or reclaiming the land.

South Korea has stepped up the development of long-range missiles, means of nuclear delivery, and is carring into practical stage the plan of launching rocket satellites.

The stockpiling of large amount of nuclear fuel, carrying into practice of the manufacture of nuclear bombs and development of long-range means of nuclear delivery now being accelerated in full scale in South Korea well show what dangerous stage the nuclear arming by the South Korean ruling quarters has reached.

The Korean Anti-Nuke Peace Commitee bitterly denounces the South Korean authorities who have accelerated in secrecy the development and manufacture of nuclear weapons behind the smear campaign for spreading the rumour of "nuclear suspicion" against the North, branding their acts as a mockery of the desire of the entire fellow countrymen for peace and peaceful reunification of the country and an open betrayal of the North-South joint declaration on denuclearization.

The South Korean authorities must not commit crimes against the nation, taking advantage of the imperialist reactionaries' row over the "nuclear problem", but take an independent stand of saving the fellow countrymen from a nuclear holocaust.

They must give up the development of nuclear weapons at once, express their will to get the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons withdrawn from South Korea, stop the nuclear war exercises with the U.S. forces for good and all and break away from the U.S. "nuclear umbrella".

We take this opportunity of expressing the hope that international organizations and political parties and organizations, political and public figures of all countries who oppose aggression and war and love peace will extend full support and solidarity to the Korean people in their just struggle to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone.

U.S. Said To Conduct 'Bombing Exercise' 24 May

SK2605054193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0452 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 26 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialist aggressors staged a bombing exercise to strike long-distance targets in the skies over Yongwol and Pyongchang, South Korea, on May 24, according to military sources.

Mobilized in the exercise were formations of Pacific-based nuclear-capable fighter-bombers, pursuit-assault planes and assault planes and a Guam-based refueling tanker.

This exercise was a dangerous play with fire aimed at surprise preemptive strikes in waves at the northern half of Korea by Pacific-based flying corps after a long-distance flight with the support of refueling tankers.

On the same day, the U.S. imperialists committed aerial espionages on the northern half of Korea with the mobilization of "RC-135" strategic reconnaissance plane and "RV-1" and "RF-4C" tactical reconnaissance planes.

Daily Denounces Continued U.S. Presence in South

SK2505111593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1028 GMT 25 May 93

["The U.S. Must Discard Thinking-Pattern of Cold War Period"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 25 (KCNA)—The U.S. recent announcement that it will keep its forces intact in South Korea shows that the United States does not want detente and peace on the Korean peninsula but seeks new tension and showdown of strength, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

The article notes:

The responsibility for the legacies of the cold war remaining on the Korean peninsula lies with the United States which has not discarded its old thinking-pattern.

The U.S. Administration is claiming that the U.S. forces should remain in South Korea for "peacekeeping" because if the U.S. forces are withdrawn from South Korea, it might leave a "blank space" and "threat from the North" might be created. This indicates that the U.S. Korea policy is still based on the position of strength, not extricating itself from the old formula of the cold war period. Such wornout thinking-pattern poses a big block to a peaceful settlement of the Korean question.

The liquidation of the legacies of the cold war on the Korean peninsula is badly needed to destroy the barrier of the division and realise the Korean people's long-cherished desire for national reconciliation and reunification.

The United States responsible for the division of Korea must refrain from hampering peace and reunification of Korea.

The withdrawal of the U.S. forces, nuclear weapons and military bases from South Korea conforms with the interests of the U.S. people, too.

Reportage on Anniversary of Kwangju Continues

Daily: U.S. Responsible for Incident

SK2605054993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0501 GMT 26 May 93

["Just Demand, Righteous Struggle"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 26 (KCNA)—It is entirely just for the South Korean students and people to call the United States to account for its criminal responsibility for the tragic Kwangju incident and put up a fight demanding an open apology by it on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the Kwangju popular uprising says a NODONG SINMUN commentary today.

The Kwangju massacre masterminded by the U.S. imperialists, notes the analyst, is a never-to-be-condoned heinous crime which followed the barbarian logic that it didn't matter even if all the people and students who turned out on the streets of resistance were killed.

If the U.S. imperialists have even a modicum of reasoning power as human beings, they should have justly apologized to the South Korean people for their crime in causing the tragic Kwangju bloodbath and gone back to their den across the ocean already long ago. The United States, however, far from doing so, uttered not a word of apology up to now shamelessly feigning innocence as if it had nothing to do with the Kwangju massacre. It is instead hatching up plots to keep hold on South Korea as its colony and nuclear base forever and, furthermore, to plunge the Korean nation into a holocaust of nuclear war.

If the South Korean authorities really seek civilian government and reform, they must break with the former dictators who massacred fellow countrymen on orders from the aggressors, and not crack down on those who rose in the struggle to punish the United States, the mastermind of the Kwangju massacre.

Meetings Commemorate 'Popular Uprising'

SK2605054293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0457 GMT 26 May 93

["Murderers of Kwangju Citizens Denounced"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 26 (KCNA)—Mass meetings took place in Chagang and South Hwanghae Provinces on May 25 on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the heroic Kwangju popular uprising.

Speakers at the meetings recalled the death-defying resistance put up by Kwangju citizens and students with arms in hand against the U.S. imperialists and their stooges, the remnants of the "Yusin" system, in South Korea 13 years ago.

They pointed out that, though the Kwangju popular uprising was put down with arms by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean military fascist clique, it dealt a telling blow at their colonial fascist rule and marked a turning point in developing the South Korean people's anti-U.S., anti-fascist struggle to a new, higher stage.

If the South Korean authorities intend to renounce the policy of dependence on outside forces and seek new "civilian government", they must make a bold decision to get the U.S. Forces, the root cause of national misfortunes and disaster, withdrawn from South Korea, break with the murderers of Kwangju people, the chiefs of the "Fifth and Sixth Republics", abolish the "National Security Law" and dissolve the fascist repressive machines, they urged.

They stressed that they would greet the 40th anniversary of the victory in the war with high political enthusiasm and brilliant achievements in labour by pressing ahead with production and construction in a more strained and mobilized posture than ever before in the spirit of supporting the South Korean people and students who are ceaselessly waging the anti-U.S., anti-fascist struggle for democracy in order to carry forward the lofty intentions of the Kwangju resistance fighters, not to make the bloodshed by them worthless.

Rallies Held To Mark 'Uprising'

SK2505052793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0437 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 25 (KCNA)—Working people in the northern half of Korea extended compatriotic support and firm solidarity to the South Korean students and people who are waging a stubborn struggle demanding a probe into the truth of the Kwangju massacre and the punishment of the United States, its mastermind, and South Korean fascist murderers.

Rallies were held in Kangwon, North Pyongan, North Hamgyong and other Provinces on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the heroic Kwangju popular uprising of May, 1980, a massive uprising unprecedented in the modern history of national liberation struggles of the eastern people. The rallies raised voices urging that if the desire of the Kwangju uprisers is to be realised, the U.S. domination and interference should be terminated and true national independence be realized in South Korea.

The South Korean people of all strata must wage more resolutely the anti-U.S., anti-war and anti-nuclear struggle to realise the desire of the Kwangju martyrs and get the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons and bases withdrawn, they stressed.

They demanded that if the present rulers of South Korea really seek a new "civilian government" different from the successive military fascist "regimes", they should decisively break with the fascist dictatorial force which had trampled upon the ideal of the Kwangju uprisers, and abolish the fascist laws and fascist repressive machines and unconditionally release all the political prisoners.

KCNA Notes Nordic Symposium on Korean Armistice

Group Sends Letter to U.S. Congress

SK2605111693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1003 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 26 (KCNA)—The Nordic symposium on the 40th anniversary of the armistice in Korea held in Helsinki on May 15, 1993, in a letter to U.S. Congress said that if the United States really wanted peace in Asia and the world, it should fundamentally change its Korea policy of the cold war period and stop such action as military threat and economic blockade against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The United States which is most responsible for the Korean question should finally stop joint military exercises such as "Team Spirit" aggravating the situation on the Korean peninsula, replace the Korean armistice agreement with a peace agreement and completely withdraw its troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea, the letter urged, and went on:

The United States must no more obstruct the reunification of Korea but do things helpful to the efforts of the Korean people to achieve the great unity of the whole nation and reunify the country independently and in a peaceful way.

The United States, first of all, should be conscious of its responsibility for having compelled the DPRK to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, abandon all its attempts to take "sanctions" against it over the fictitious "nuclear problem" and take the stand of settling the problem through Korea-U.S. negotiation.

The symposium expressed the hope that U.S. Congress will immediately respond to Korea-U.S. negotiation, the willingness for which was expressed by the U.S. State Department recently, and pay due attention to it and take necessary measures so as to smoothly settle all the pending problems between Korea and the United States.

Addresses Letter to UNSC

SK2605111393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1008 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 26 (KCNA)—The Nordic symposium on the 40th anniversary of the armistice in Korea held in Helsinki on May 15 adopted a letter addressed to the president of the U.N. Security Council.

The letter says:

"The withdrawal of the DPRK from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) is not a matter to be discussed at the U.N. Security Council and there is no legal ground to adopt a 'resolution' regarding the withdrawal from the NPT," the letter said, and went on:

"We decisively reject the 'resolution' of the U.N. Security Council.

"The nuclear problem of the Korean peninsula should be solved through Korea-U.S. negotiation as the DPRK proposed, not at the U.N. Security Council. For it is the United States which has deployed a large number of nuclear weapons in South Korea, it is the U.S. which has created nuclear threat on the Korean peninsula and it is again the U.S. which instigated some officials of the International Atomic Energy Agency to deprive it of its impartiality and compelled the DPRK to withdraw from the NPT."

The U.N. Security Council should deliberate on the threat of the United States which has failed to fulfil its obligations under the treaty as a nuclear power not to proliferate nuclear weapons nor to present nuclear threat.

The letter expressed the hope that the president of the Security Council will pay due attention so that the council may not repeat its mistake of the 1950s and may withdraw the U.N. flag from South Korea.

Letter Urges Action on Nuclear Issue

SK2605114193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1019 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 26 (KCNA)—A letter to the governments of the Nordic countries was adopted at the Nordic symposium on the 40th anniversary of the armistice in Korea held in Helsinki on May 15.

The letter called upon the Nordic governments to raise the following fair demands to the countries concerned for a peaceful solution of the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula:

—To demand that the United States, which has deployed nuclear weapons in the Southern part of the Korean peninsula and presents nuclear threat to the DPRK, withdraw its nuclear weapons and guarantee security.

—To demand that Japan stop importing plutonium and developing nuclear weapons.

—To demand that South Korea break away from the "nuclear umbrella" of the United States and stop its own development of nuclear weapons.

—To demand that the U.N. Security Council and the International Atomic Energy Agency uphold international justice and the principle of impartiality and revoke their unreasonable "resolutions" on the DPRK.

—To demand that the United States immediately respond to talks with the DPRK and settle the question of the Korean peninsula in a peaceful way through it.

KCNA Notes Trade Union Group Letter to UN

SK2405232993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1514 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 24 (KCNA)—Debkumar Ganguli, secretary of the World Federation of Trade Unions, who participated in the "seminar on economic development and trade unions in Asia" held in Guangzhou, China, sent a letter to the United Nations Secretary General on May 19 rejecting the unreasonable "resolution" adopted at the UN Security Council over the withdrawal of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

The letter expressed deep apprehensions for and surprise at the fact that the United Nations founded with the mission of ensuring world peace and harmony has taken a factional stand, directly interfering in a regional dispute against this mission.

Noting that the United Nations is keeping mum about the continued presence of U.S. troops on the Korean peninsula, the letter requested the United Nations to take necessary steps for the termination of foreign interference in the Korean peninsula and the denuclearization of the peninsula.

Daily Criticizes Dispatch of Japanese Military

SK2605055093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0514 GMT 26 May 93

["MINJU CHOSON Flails Overseas Dispatch of Japanese 'SDF'"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 26 (KCNA)—The Japanese foreign minister recently argued that the "law on cooperation in the U.N. Peacekeeping Operation (PKO)" must be revised so that "the Japanese 'Self-Defence Forces' [SDF] might take part in military activities on a broader scale." And a spokesman for the Japanese Government declared that the Japanese "SDF" stationed in other countries under the name of the "peacekeeping force" could use weapons to protect Japanese civilians and foreigners.

Lurking behind these utterances is the sinister design to turn the "SDF" into an international police and justify its military interference in other countries, a MINJU CHOSON analyst says, and continues:

The Japanese rulers intend to make the "SDF" openly commit military intervention in other countries after they opened the road of its overseas dispatch by revising the constitution which had prohibited its action abroad. They declared that they would allow the "SDF" to strut about freely and wield the bayonets against anyone, going beyond the "law on cooperation in the U.N. PKO" which limits its military activities abroad to some extent. This means that they are going to make the Japanese Army an international police.

This poses a grave threat to the Asian peoples because it is aimed at laying a springboard for overseas aggression under the clock of "U.N. PKO".

While encouraging the "SDF" to use arms overseas, the Japanese rulers are talking loudly about "peace-keeping" and "protection". This is a sheer lie and an excuse to justify its military interference.

The Japanese authorities should stop running amok, clearly knowing that their moves for overseas expansion will only precipitate their own destruction.

Romanian Prime Minister Meets Envoy 19 May

[illegible]045593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0421 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 25 (KCNA)—Romanian Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu, when he met with the Korean ambassador on May 19, said that the reunification of Korea was a matter which must be settled by the Korean people themselves and outside interference could not be allowed.

He hoped that the reunification of Korea would be achieved at an early date through dialogue and negotiation and that the "nuclear problem" would be solved through Korea-U.S. negotiation.

Lao, Jordanian Envoys Arrive in Pyongyang 25 May

SK2605053793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0445 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 26 (KCNA)—New Lao Ambassador Ponmek Dalaloy and Jordanian Ambassador to Korea Samih Elfaraj arrived here Tuesday [25 May].

Choe Tae-pok Heads Solidarity Group to Portugal

SK2605110793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1027 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 26 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Korean Committee for Solidarity with the World People led by chairman of the committee Choe Tae-pok, alternate Politburo member and secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] left here today to attend the world conference for supporting the Korean people's cause of peace, security, sovereignty and reunification to be held in Portugal.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by vice-director of a department of the C.C., WPK Kim Hyong-u.

KCNA Spotlights Korean Revolution Museum

SK2505232593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1519 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 25 (KCNA)—Special favours are granted to those who have performed exploits for the sake of the national unity and the cause of national reunification in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The great leader President Kim Il-song said:

"Special favours should be granted to those who have performed exploits for the sake of the great unity of the nation and the reunification of the country, to patriotic martyrs and to their descendants."

President Kim Il-song often recollects those who took the patriotic course, though they had different political views, religious beliefs, isms and ideologies, and makes them immortal along with the nation.

Under his benevolent care, pictures of many patriotic martyrs including Kim Ku, leader of the independence party of Korea, Kim Kyu-sik, chairman of the South Korean Transitional Legislative Assembly of the U.S. military government and president of the national independence league, and Paek Nam-un, vice-chairman of the Working People's Party of South Korea, are exhibited in the Korean revolution museum situated in the city center of Pyongyang.

Kim Ku devoted himself to anti-communism and rightist nationalism nearly all his life and even styled himself "anti-communist fighter."

After he accepted the noble idea of the great leader on great national unity at the North-South joint conference in April 1948, he switched his course to collaboration with the North and communism in his seventies.

Included in the pictures exhibited in the museum are those of Yo Un-hyong, leader of the People's Party of South Korea, who found the true path of patriotism after the liberation and dedicated his life to the reunification of the country and Hong Myong-hui, who was leader of the Democratic Independence Party of South Korea and after coming over to the northern half worked as vice-premier of the cabinet and chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland.

Love for martyrs is also felt in the patriotic martyrs cemetery in the suburbs of Pyongyang.

There are tombstones set up for former party and state cadres and socialist patriotic martyrs as well as for hundreds of martyrs who dedicated their lives to the reunification of the country, including Cho So-ang, a minister of the "Shanghai provisional government" and leader of the Socialist Party of South Korea, Yun Ki-sop, vice-chairman of the South Korean Transitional Legislative Assembly, and Yi Chong-man who was a non-comprador capitalist before the liberation of the country.

Included in them is a tombstone for Choe Tok-sin who was an army corps commander of the "ROK army" and "foreign minister" of South Korea. Through his experience, he keenly felt that the destiny of the country and the nation could not be saved with the idea of dependence on outside forces and anti-communism. After he permanently settled in the northern half of the country in 1986, he worked as chairman of the C.C., the Chondoist Chongu Party, vice-chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland and a deputy to the Supreme People's Assembly and spent the remainder of his life devotedly working for the great unity of the nation and the the noble cause of national reunification.

Inscribed in the "monument to the united front" on Ssuk Island on the Taedong River are names of persons who contributed to the united front movement by participating in the North-South joint conference after the liberation.

The DPRK instituted "prize of national reunification" and awarded it to many people including Yi Kuk-no, Choe Tong-o and Om Hang-sop who dedicated their lives to national unity and reunification.

The prize winners include Choe Hong-hui, president of the International Taekwon-do Federation, Yun I-sang, chairman of the Overseas Headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification, Yim Su-kyong who was the delegate of the former "National Council of Student Representatives" of South Korea, the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan and Father Mun Kyu-hyon who are devotedly working for the noble cause of reunification in South Korea and abroad.

Economic Sectors Experience Productive Upswing

SK2505110693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1002 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 25 (KCNA)—A productive upswing has been reported from different sectors of the Korean national economy on the threshold of the 40th anniversary of the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War.

According to data available, the power stations across the country boosted production by 35.2 million kwh in the first 15 days of May above the same period of the previous month by operating their equipment at full capacity.

The fertilizer output at chemical factories in the last one month was 40 percent up on that in the same period last year.

Coal mines in South Pyongan Province have increased tunneling results this month 17 percent above that at the same time last year, which was fairly high, by introducing an advanced method. The Sunchon district coal mining complex turned out in recent 10 days 21,000 more tons of coal than in the same period last year.

The Hwanghae and other iron and steel works are keeping iron and steel production on a high level.

Daily Views Kim Il-song Propaganda Work

SK2505112293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1034 GMT 25 May 93

["Firm Establishment of Party's Monolithic Ideological System, Consistent Line of Our Party"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 25 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today dedicates an article to the 26th anniversary of the historic speech of the great leader President Kim Il-song on the orientation of party's propaganda work on May 25, 1967.

In his speech, President Kim Il-song deeply analysed the concrete realities of the party's ideological work, defined establishment of the party's monolithic ideological system as the general orientation of the party's ideological work and clearly indicated matters of principle in strengthening ideological work as required by it.

The author of the article says:

The speech is run through with the idea that establishment of the monolithic ideological system throughout the party and society is a decisive guarantee for victory in the cause of party building and socialism.

To establish this system means in essence to equip the whole party and society with the leader's idea and firmly establish the leader's unitary guidance system.

The working-class party is an organic integral whole which is founded by the leader and takes the leader's revolutionary idea as the blood vein in its existence and activity. The leader is the personifier of the organisational will of the whole party and his idea is the guiding idea of the party. Therefore, there must be only the leader's revolutionary idea prevailing in the party and unity around him in ideology and purpose must be achieved.

The great leader's historic May 25 instructions marked a new milestone in further strengthening the might of the party and achieving the singlehearted unity of the whole party and society in ideology, purpose and action on the basis of the chuche idea in keeping with the development of socialist construction in our country.

The work of establishing the monolithic ideological system in our country has been conducted on a new high plane under the guidance of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Our people will constantly deepen the work of establishing this system on the consistent line of the party, cement the singlehearted unity of the leader, the party and the masses, an invincible weapon of our revolution, and bring to accomplishment the socialist cause of chuche with its might.

KCNA Reviews 26 May Pyongyang Press

SK2605060293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0529 GMT 26 May 93

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 26 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today reports that President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea received messages from Tanzanian President Ali Hassan Mwinyi, Norwegian King Harald the Fifth and Jamaican Prime Minister P.J. Patterson in reply to his messages of greetings sent to them respectively on the occasion of the 29th anniversary of the founding of the United Republic of Tanzania, the National Day of the Kingdom of Norway and upon Patterson's reelection as prime minister of Jamaica.

It is also reported in the daily that a letter came to the great leader President Kim Il-song from the participants in a meeting held at the Lahore Branch of the Pakistan-Korea Friendship Association in support of the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent gifts to the Jilin Yuwen Middle School in China, according to the press.

Appearing in NODONG SINMUN is a letter to Comrade Kim Chong-il from the participants in a Bangladeshi National Seminar on the Chuche Idea, Independence and Democracy.

The press informs the readers that Comrade Kim Chong-il extended thanks to working people and soldiers who participated in the construction of a "Kunmin (army-civilian) Bridge" and that the bridge was opened to traffic with a due ceremony.

NODONG SINMUN tells a story about leadership exploits of Comrade Kim Chong-il who has devotedly worked to provide the people with a more affluent and civilized life.

The daily reports a message of greetings sent by the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea to Madhav Kumar Nepal upon his election as general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Nepal (United Marxism-Leninism).

NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON come out with editorials under the respective titles "Let Us Make Our Revolutionary Ranks an Integrated Whole of Loyalty and Filial Piety" and "Officials of Power Bodies Should Become Vanguard Fighters in Implementing Party Policies".

"Elevating Organizational Conception Is a Noble Personality of Party Members" is the title of a NODONG SINMUN article.

Econews of the press include reports about rice-transplanting being stepped up at the last stage in rural communities, successes in the production of coal and timber and innovations effected in different domains of the national economy in response to the calls of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea issued on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Korean people's victory in the war.

Appearing in the press is a letter sent by Kang Song-san, premier of the DPRK Administration Council, to the South Korean "prime minister" proposing an exchange of special envoys appointed by the persons in top authority of the North and the South.

The press gives an account of provincial mass meetings held to commemorate the 13th anniversary of the heroic Kwangju popular uprising.

A commentary of NODONG SINMUN says it is extremely just for the South Korean students and people to call the United States to account for its responsibility for the tragic Kwangju incident and put up a fight demanding an open apology of it on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the Kwangju popular uprising.

The daily prints the first installment of an article exposing the truth behind South Korea's nuclear arms development.

Included in the South Korean news of the press are reports that the Human Rights Committee of the National Council of Christian Churches demanded the release of long-term prisoners and that an estimated 1,000 students vowed to boycott classes in protest.

The press carries a statement issued by the Korean Anti-Nuke Peace Committee denouncing the South Korean authorities for more frantically stepping up their nuclear arms development on the pretext of "nuclear suspicion" against the DPRK.

Papers convey voices of world public figures strongly condemning the unjust "resolution" of the UN Security Council against the DPRK.

It is reported in NODONG SINMUN that the general coordinator of the Central Committee of the People's Vanguard of Costa Rica in a statement issued to the press on the occasion of the first anniversary of the Pyongyang declaration said they would further strengthen internationalist unity and solidarity under the banner of the Pyongyang declaration.

The U.S. imperialist aggressors staged a long-distance bombing exercise and aerial espionage against the North, reports the daily.

World news columns of the press include reports that the chairman of the Presidential Council of Yemen called for building a New Yemen and that the Young Communist League was reborn in Armenia.

NODONG SINMUN observes the first anniversary of the opening of diplomatic relations between Korea and Oman.

In an article the daily cites facts to prove that the United States is the real nuclear criminal.

MINJU CHOSON prints a commentary hitting out at the Japanese authorities who recently let out remarks openly calling for overseas aggression of the "Self-Defence Forces".

KCNA Reviews 25 May Pyongyang Press

SK2505053193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0456 GMT 25 May 93

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 25 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a message of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to King Husayn the First of Jordan on the 47th anniversary of the independence of Jordan.

Seen in NODONG SINMUN is a message of greetings to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il from Branko Kitanovic, general secretary of the New Yugoslav Communist Movement, on his election as chairman of the National Defence Commission of the DPRK.

Printed in papers is a letter to Comrade Kim Chong-il from the participants in the Guinean national seminar on the chuche idea.

Papers observe the 38th anniversary of the formation of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), an authoritative organisation of overseas Koreans of the DPRK (May 25, 1955).

On this occasion, papers run editorials and articles on great achievements made by the Koreans in Japan in the patriotic work of Chongnyon.

NODONG SINMUN conveys words of South Korean people earnestly longing for the northern half of the country.

NODONG SINMUN runs an article titled "Firm establishment of party's monolithic ideological system is consistent line of our party" and MINJU CHOSON an article titled "People's government is most solid socialist government with broad popular masses as its socio-political foundation."

Under the bannerline titles "Let us all vigorously turn out in the struggle to implement the party's revolutionary economic strategy" and "for a new upswing in production and construction in the spirit of crossing a river in flame" papers devote much space to achievements made by working people in coal, power, machine-building, construction and other domains of the national economy in response to the calls of the C.C., the Workers' Party of Korea on the 40th anniversary of the victory in the war.

Cooperative farms are hastening rice transplantation in the final stage, according to papers.

NODONG SINMUN introduces beautiful deeds of welfare service workers devotedly working for society and the people.

Papers inform the readers of an agreement on friendship and cooperation between the Workers' Party of Korea and the African Party for the solidarity and justice of Mali signed in Pyongyang.

Papers convey home and foreign public voices supporting the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation.

Students in different parts of South Korea held protests and sit-down strikes demanding a probe into the truth of the May 18 incident and apology from the U.S., according to the press.

An article of NODONG SINMUN says the U.S. is the mastermind of the Kwangju massacre in May 1980.

MINJU CHOSON runs an article on the nuclear arms development of South Korea.

Papers convey voices denouncing the "special inspection" campaign of the U.S. imperialists and their satellite states against the DPRK.

Papers observe the 30th anniversary of the formation of the Organisation of African Unity and the 47th anniversary of the independence of Jordan.

MINJU CHOSON marks the first anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Korea and Oman.

Papers report that the Indonesian president called for self-reliance and a U.S. vessel was captured in Cuba.

An article of NODONG SINMUN demands that the U.S. forces and nuclear weapons in South Korea, a leftover of the Cold War era, be withdrawn.

MINJU CHOSON in an article explains that the recent meeting of the standing ministerial committee of non-aligned countries for economic cooperation marked an important occasion in establishing a South-South economic order.

* Pyongyang Said To Confine Dwarfs in Camps

932C0137A Seoul NAEWOE TONGSIN in Korean 22 Apr 93 p 4

[Text] The words "search teams for dwarfs" refer to the groups organized under Kim Chong-il's secret instructions to "take measures to dry up the seeds of dwarfs."

Prior to the 1988 Pyongyang festival, Kim Chong-il issued the aforementioned instructions and the teams organized under his instructions have been in operation under the pretext of "maintaining the dignity of the chuche-based Republic."

The argument for "maintaining the dignity of the chuche-based Republic" is based on the assumption that when foreigners see dwarfs, they will get an unfavorable impression of North Korea.

There are four or five such teams organized across North Korea. Their duty is to make their rounds of the areas under their respective jurisdiction ferreting out dwarfs and banish them to other locations when they are detected. Each team usually consists of four members of the Ministry of Public Security and two research members of the Genetic Institute under the Academy of Medical Science.

When a ferreted out dwarf is found of genetic origin, not only the person himself but also his whole family are banished. Concentration camps for them are established in various localities in Chongsong County, North Hamgyong Province, and Orang County, Yanggang Province.

These concentration camps for dwarfs, which are called "villages of the Nuzhen race," are enclosed by double barbed wire fences. The internees are forced to live a rigorous life of self-sufficiency inside the camp, with contacts with the outside or free movement strictly prohibited.

In addition, under the policy for "drying up the seeds of dwarfs," not only marriage with ordinary persons but also marriage among dwarfs are banned. Couples already married are kept separate by sex to prevent child bearing.

Recently, there was a protest demonstration of dwarfs interned in a concentration camp, during which they attempted to break out of the camp shouting, "we are not criminals, why are we confined?" and "We are short in height, but we can lead a normal life." At least hundreds of them were reportedly shot to death indiscriminately.

South Korea

Reportage on Visit of PRC Foreign Minister

Arrives 26 May

SK2605052493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0516 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 26 (YONHAP)—Chinese Deputy Prime Minister Qian Qichen arrived in the South Korean capital on Wednesday [26 May] for a four-day visit focusing on joint measures to solve North Korea's nuclear crisis and immediately began talks with Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu.

The two will meet again Thursday, but Seoul officials said the first round of talks was intended to cover more highlight issues, including the nuclear situation.

Qian and Han were expected to confirm their wishes to see a nuclear-free Korean peninsula, but both countries would have to "wait and see" North Korea's reaction at the June 2 high-level contact with the United States, the officials said.

The visit by Qian, who is also foreign minister, comes as the June 12 deadline nears for North Korea to either return to the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) or face international sanctions.

China abstained from voting on the U.N. resolution on North Korea May 11 that demands North Korea's return to the treaty and compliance with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) special inspection on two suspected atomic facilities.

Vice Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan, who heads the Asian Affairs Bureau, is accompanying Qian and will hold separate talks with his Korean counterpart, Hong Sun-yong, on Thursday.

Sides Pledge Cooperation on DPRK

SK2605103593 Seoul YONHAP in English 1023 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 26 (YONHAP)—South Korea and China pledged closest cooperation yet Wednesday [26 May] to resolve North Korea's nuclear crisis, agreeing that the present situation is "the most important critical point."

South Korea's Assistant Foreign Minister Sin Ki-pok, emerging from one and half hour meeting between Foreign Ministers Han Sung-chu and Qian Qichen, said they reconfirmed North Korea's nuclear development is cause to serious international concern and destablizing factor to peace and security in Northeast Asia and on the Korean peninsula.

"The foreign ministers of the two countries agreed that the current times is 'the most important critical point' in solving the problem and shared a same opinion that the two countries will strengthen bilateral cooperation more than ever before," Sin said.

The Chinese foreign minister has come to Seoul as the international community accelerates last minute efforts to persuade North Korea to return to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and accept inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Seoul had proposed bilateral talks with Pyongyang to complement international efforts, but Han drove a strong message to North Korea through Qian that the bilateral dialogue may stop unless North Korea return to NPT.

"We have reminded China that more stringent measures are realistically inevitable unless North Korea soon carry out its responsiblities, especially necessary steps to remain in the NPT, " Sin told reporters, echoing threats of U.N.-led economic sanctions.

"We have reminded that it would be difficult to continue with South-North Korean bilateral negotiations under such circumstances, " said Sin.

Seoul also pegged down the June 12 deadline for North Korea to come back to NPT, stressing that it is crucial for Pyongyang to take action before then.

North Korea announced it is bolting the NPT, and the withdrawal becomes official on June 12. The U.N. Security Council [UNSC], after much tug-of-war with China over the contents and wording, adopted a resolution May 11 urging Pyongyang to reconsider its NPT withdrawal and to comply with IAEA inspections.

Beijing, about the last remaining staunch ally to Pyongyang, abstained from voting on the resolution.

The resolution left room open for sanction measures, saying the Security Council will consider "further" actions unless there is positive progress on North Korea's part.

China, repeating its past stance, emphasized that North Korea's nuclear problem must be solved peacefully, without international sanctions, according to Sin.

Qian took note of South Korea's efforts to resolve North Korea's nuclear crisis and pledged close consultations with South Korea so that the situation will not go so far to necessitate further actions by the UNSC.

"The talks were very sincere," said Sin when asked to evaluate Wednesday's meeting.

The Han-Qian meeting was scheduled for 60 minutes but lasted half an hour longer, "reflecting the gravity of the issue at hand and depth of the discussion," Sin said.

Qian arrived earlier Wednesday and headed to the Foreign Ministry for his first session with Han. The two officials will meet again Thursday, but the agenda then will focus on bilateral issues rather than North Korea's nuclear situation, officials here said.

Qian Invites Han To Visit PRC

SK2605110093 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1010 GMT 26 May 93

[By reporter Kim In-yong]

[Text] ROK Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu and Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen held the first ever ROK-PRC foreign ministerial talks this afternoon at the ROK Foreign Ministry.

In today's talks, the foreign ministers of the two countries assessed the efforts which each country had made to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue and reportedly agreed that North Korea must return to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty at an early date for stability and prosperity in Northeast Asia.

Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen reportedly assessed highly the efforts which the ROK Government had made to help the United States and North Korea hold high-level talks. He also reportedly supported the ROK Government's efforts to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue through North-South dialogue as indicated in the ROK Government's 20 May proposal for North-South talks.

ROK Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu reportedly assessed highly China's abstention at the UN Security Council on 11 May when the United Nations adopted a resolution against North Korea, and he asked China to join in passing a resolution on economic sanctions against North Korea.

Prior to today's talks, Foreign Minister Qian Qichen asked Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu to visit China around September. He also proposed that the two foreign ministers make joint efforts to sign an aviation agreement between the two countries at an early date.

'News Analysis' of DPRK Issue

SK2605121693 Seoul YONHAP in English 1159 GMT 26 May 93

["News Analysis" by Yi Tong-min: "Seoul, Beijing Emphasize Peaceful Solution to Pyongyang's Nuke Issue"]

[Text] Seoul, May 26 (YONHAP)—South Korea and China produced a closest agreement so far Wednesday [26 May] in approaching North Korea's nuclear crisis, promising cooperation for a solution before punitive actions by the UN Security Council.

Officials' comments after the nearly 90-minute talks between Foreign Ministers Han Sung-chu and Qian Qichen suggests a coordinated view that now is the crucial point determining whether the North Korean nuclear problem will be successfully solved.

Indeed, mood for bilateral and multilateral negotiations with Pyongyang is ripening as the June 12 deadline nears on North Korea's official withdrawal from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Direct high-level talks between Pyongyang and Washington have been scheduled for June 2, North Korea proposed exchange of presidential envoys with South Korea to discuss nuclear and other inter-Korean issues, and it hinted [at] negotiations with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on continuing with the agency inspection on its nuclear facilities.

South Korean Assistant Foreign Minister Sin Ki-pok said in a post-meeting briefing that Han and Qian agreed that now is the pivotal point in seeking a solution.

The promise by Seoul and Beijing for what Sin called "cooperation stronger than ever before" showed China's willingness to work with South Korea and take into account Seoul's position.

The two foreign ministers set the tone to the direction of bilateral cooperation, that it will not become necessary for the UN Security Council to take further actions, meaning sanctions, on North Korea.

Seoul officials say Qian came to Seoul with much less burden in discussing the North Korean situation because the two sides already put the agenda on the table when the foreign ministers last met in Bangkok in April.

Beijing willingly rescheduled Qian's South Korea-Japan visit, pushing up the Seoul call to late May before the Tokyo visit instead of early June after his tour first to Japan.

The emphasis on Seoul's part at Wednesday's meeting was adjusting comparatively smaller details and driving through a message to North Korea via China.

Han stressed Pyongyang's responsibilities with the NPT and the IAEA, pegging down that North Korea must act before June 12 to remain in the nuclear treaty, an emphasis meant to counter China's flexibility on the time limit to solve the current debacle.

Highly notable was Seoul's explanation of inherent benefits for North Korea if it carries out due responsibilities with the NPT, IAEA and inter-Korean agreement for nuclear-free Korean peninsula.

Although Sin said the two sides did not go into details of the available rewards, close sources say China has the outline of what it can tell Pyongyang when persuading it to comply with international demands.

Another message was that inter-Korean negotiations will not continue unless North Korea takes necessary actions to stay in the NPT.

This remark was made while Seoul is trying to analyze Pyongyang's intention in proposing exchange of presidential envoys. Seoul apparently wanted to tell both North Korea and China that inter-Korean talks will not proceed without affirmative action by Pyongyang, that it will not allow Pyongyang's delay tactics to weaken international pressure.

The North Korean nuclear problem still remains an international matter, closely followed by the UN Security Council. Seoul and Beijing agreed, nonetheless, that peaceful option is still open for North Korea.

Seoul Unable To Agree on Response to DPRK Proposal

SK2605054593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0537 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 26 (YONHAP)—South Korea decided Wednesday [26 May] it needed further study before it could respond to a North Korean proposal for an exchange of presidential envoys to discuss a Seoul-Pyongyang summit.

Working-level officials from the National Unification Board, Agency for National Security Planning, and Foreign Ministry decided to first have time to analyze the background and intentions of the proposal by North Korea and sound out the United States and China before making a final decision.

The government will pay attention to China's position on the idea during a meeting between Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu and Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen in the afternoon.

The government has sounded out the U.S. position through diplomatic channels particularly because Washington is to have a high-level talks with Pyongyang on June 2, informed sources said.

A government source said that the South might accept a vice ministerial-level contact the North has proposed for the truce village of Panmunjom on May 31 as part of an effort to ascertain whether it was willing to solve the nuclear problem in a peaceful way.

The South will explicitly tell the North that the agenda must be limited to nuclear and related matters to prevent Pyongyang's use of delaying tactics.

Unification-related ministers were expected to meet Thursday with Unification Minister Han Wan-sang, or there might be a high-level strategic meeting, to adjust Seoul's position on the North Korean proposal and deliver a reply by Saturday, the source said.

NPT Withdrawal To 'Preserve' Regime

SK2605053993 Seoul WOLGAN CHOSON in Korean May 93 pp 348-349.

[Article by Ha Yong-son, professor of international politics at Seoul National University: "North Korea's Withdrawal From the NPT Is an Unavoidable Tool To Preserve the Regime"]

[Text] **Sanctions Could Have Been Adopted Instead of Special Inspections**

What is the real reason behind North Korea's refusal to comply with the request by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] for special inspections and their subsequent withdrawal from the Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT]? To begin, we can think of three different scenarios.

First, North Korea's refusal of IAEA special inspections can be seen as a move to preserve their regime. Special inspections could become a decisive impediment to protecting North Korea's socialism. Thus North Korea could not accept special inspections "for the sake of protecting its greatest interests." North Korea most likely calculated the difference between the cost it would incur if it underwent special inspections by the IAEA and the burden it would have to bear should it refuse such inspections. It may have been uncertain about this difference from its position, and it may have arrived at the conclusion that within its closed society, it would be better to accept sanctions from the U.N. Security Council rather than undergo special inspections.

Second, there is the possibility that North Korea is attempting to utilize its withdrawal from the NPT as a political tool. This would entail flaunting its nuclear development capability, refusing special inspections, and adopting a policy of uncertainty. North Korea would benefit from using its withdrawal from the NPT as a bargaining chip in talks with the United States and Japan. North Korea has hinted that withdrawal from the NPT itself is not permanent; rather, it says, its decision depends on the responses it receives. In alluding to this, North Korea appears headed toward negotiations with the United States and Japan.

Third, North Korea's actions may serve as a strategic tool. With North Korea already approaching levels capable of nuclear weapons development, its withdrawal from the NPT would seem to be a means by which to buy time.

Ultimately, what is most important in the North Korean nuclear issue are the objectives upon which North Korea is focusing as it plays this game with the international community. In other words, microscopic issues such as how many weapons North Korea is capable of producing are not that important.

Let us start by examining the possibility that this is being used as a military tool. The possibility of North Korea pursuing nuclear development for military objectives is most remote, for if North Korea were to pursue such goals, it would certainly lead to the collapse of the North Korean system. Should the international community—more specifically the United States—have evidence that North Korea was either pursuing or had already succeeded in developing nuclear weapons for military purposes, then it most likely would persist in pushing North Korea into a corner. This would drive North Korea into a situation which would be difficult for it to handle. If sanctions were to be imposed on North Korea in this case, they would be implemented with more specificity, in a shorter time period, and in more forceful steps. The United States would not allow North Korea to remain as an exception to the NPT.

Profits and Losses of Nuclear Sovereignty Must Be Clearly Calculated

Stating that North Korea intends to utilize its withdrawal from the NPT as a political tool is more plausible than claiming that it will use it for strategic purposes. Yet even here the possibilities for miscalculation are also great. What can North Korea gain from either the United States or Japan in return for revoking its decision to withdraw from the NPT? And can it proceed as though the issue of special inspections never occurred? The possibilities of the latter do not appear very great.

The North Korean nuclear issue is a serious problem whether seen from South Korea's perspective or from that of the United States. This issue is also being viewed at the international level for its relevance to international security and the NPT, and at the regional level for its implications in Northeast Asia and on the Korean peninsula. Judging from present trends, the Clinton administration will likely prioritize the dimensions involving international security and the NPT.

If this is the case, then North Korea's demands cannot be accepted as they are. There would be no way of preventing a second or third North Korea from emerging. Other nations may adopt North Korea's method of withdrawing from the NPT whenever they need to negotiate.

The possibilities thus focus in on the first scenario, that of protecting their system. In recent remarks, the North has been using expressions such as "The IAEA is coming in [molgo turo-onda] one step at a time." North Korea probably felt that "If we accept the IAEA's request for special inspections, how can we know what it might demand next? How far will its demands go? At what point do we draw the line?" Of course there was probably internal debate as well. Some probably voiced their concern over U.N. Security Council sanctions. However, within their closed state, North Korea may have calculated that in closing ranks and circling its wagons, the costs that it would incur because of U.N. sanctions would be less than those suffered by accepting special inspections.

A "nuclear sovereignty theory" is emerging in South Korea recently as a means of responding to North Korea's nuclear development. A multifaceted profit-and-loss statement needs to be drawn up at the national-interests level. In order to look at the benefits and losses that will be incurred by securing nuclear sovereignty, we first must place both North and South Korea under the NPT structure. Under these conditions, it is most certain that although some technology may be gained in the process, much would be lost politically and militarily.

From a political perspective, I believe, the utility of nuclear weapons will diminish in the 21st century. When conflicts of interests develop between states in the 21st century, there will most probably be few if any instances in which a nation could turn to nuclear weapons. That being said, nuclear weapons will become an anachronism. Why work toward obtaining anachronistic nuclear weapons when there are new weapons that are much more effective in the new world order? These new weapons with technological and economic strength are those which Korea will need to devote all of its strength to in obtaining them.

ASEAN Considers Inviting DPRK to Security Talks

SK2405111993 Seoul YONHAP in English 1052 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 24 (YONHAP)—The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) may decide to invite North Korea into its regional security dialogue to develop itself into a full-fledged security cooperation forum, ranking Foreign Ministry official said Monday [24 May]. "The idea of inviting North Korea to the ASEAN security dialogue was informally discussed," said Assistant Foreign Minister for Policy Planning Kwon Pyong-hyon who returned from the association's first senior officials' meeting (SOM) last week dealing with regional security. "The group did not arrive at a definite conclusion on the matter," said Kwon, "but it was addressed."

The six-member ASEAN, trying to define a new role, hosted the first regional talks on security arrangements among its formal members and dialogue partners. Participants agreed to continue with the dialogue, holding the next session in Thailand sometime next year with added attendance by China, Russia and Vietnam, apparently to bite into specific issues such as Cambodia and Spratly territorial disputes.

The ASEAN-SOM adopted a closing statement expressing concern over North Korea's secretive nuclear program and its withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, a concrete action involving the association in political affairs. While South Korea hopes to draw North Korea into the dialogue, Seoul officials say they want the ASEAN to lead the negotiations with Pyongyang.

The ASEAN-SOM intends to cover not only Southeast Asian but Northeast Asian security issues, concentrating on U.N.-outlined preventive diplomacy, according to Kwon. "The meeting dealt with specifics," said Kwon, including confidence building and transparent military policies. Proposals included registering all arms purchase with the United Nations, submission of military white paper and full notification and observership of all military exercises, he said.

DLP To Urge Businesses To Seek DPRK Ventures

SK2505092393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0824 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 25 (YONHAP)—The ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] has decided to urge private manufacturing businesses to seek partners for their external joint ventures in North Korea rather than in the currently popular Southeast Asian countries and China. According to an internal document prepared to support DLP lawmakers' activities in their constituencies, the ruling party has decided to place the main emphasis of inter-Korean economic cooperation on joint ventures, in a departure from the current indirect trade.

Such a policy was needed to resist efforts by countries in Southeast Asia to catch up with South Korea in the race for economic development, and to maximize the potential for growth in both Koreas by relocating industries on the Korean peninsula. It was prompted partly by the judgement that the economic backwardness of the North might put a limit on inter-Korean economic exchanges which, rely mainly on trade.

Kim Yong-sam, Philippine's Ramos Discuss Ties

SK2505082193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0325 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 25 (YONHAP)—South Korean President Kim Yong-sam and Philippine President Fidel Ramos discussed a wide range of international issues, including the situation on the Korean peninsula and ways to promote bilateral relations, in Kim's office on Tuesday morning. The presidents shared the view that North Korea's refusal to accept international inspections on its nuclear facilities and announcement to leave the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty are a big threat to peace in the Asia-Pacific region and a grave challenge to the entire world community.

They agreed to cooperate to solve the matter. "The spirit of reconciliation and cooperation has been proliferating with the end of the cold-war era throughout the world," Kim said. "However, there still remain unstable factors in the Asia-Pacific region."

Ramos was known to have promised in reply that Manila wouldn't pursue normalization of relations with North Korea unless the nuclear issue was resolved, adding that his government would continue to support Seoul's efforts to that end. The heads of state also reached an agreement over strengthening ties between Korea and the Association of Southeast Aisan Nations (ASEAN) and they agreed to continue to closely cooperate for it.

Kim and Ramos, expressing satisfaction over gradual development of bilateral amicable and cooperative ties since 1949, when Seoul and Manila set up official relations, exchanged views on ways to help expand trade and economic cooperation between their countries and the issue of Philippine citizens illegally staying in Korea. In particular, Kim expressed his hope for Korean companies to be allowed to participate in the reoperation of the Bataan nuclear power plant and said he would instruct the pertinent government ministeries to review the matter of Philippine nationals in Korea illegally.

While listening to Ramos explain the territorial disputes concerning some islands in the South China sea, Kim expressed his sympathy for the Philippine position that calls for peaceful solutions among the concerned parties. After the meeting, the two presidents attended a ceremony for the signing of the Korea-Philippine extradition treaty by Foreign Ministers Han Sung-chu and Roberto Romulo.

In a welcome speech for Ramos, Kim said: "The two countries could meet the Asia-Pacific era in the 21st century in a positive manner by closely cooperating with each other to maximize potentials for economic development." "I hope that our endeavors for democratic development could contribute to realizing aspirations of the two peoples and to peace and prosperity of Asia, the Pacific and furthermore the entire world." The ceremony was conducted indoors because of rain.

U.S. Treasury Report: Seoul Ceases 'Manipulating' Won

SK2605020593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0144 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Washington, May 25 (YONHAP)—The U.S. Treasury Department said Tuesday [25 May] in a report to Congress that South Korea has stopped manipulating foreign exchange rates directly to gain an unfair competitive advantage in international trade or to prevent effective balance of payment adjustments.

It also said a close watch would be kept on Korea.

"Korea maintains a system of foreign exchange and capital controls that limit trade and investment flows and thereby dampen the influence of market forces in the foreign exchange market," said the report, given by Undersecretary of the Treasury for International Affairs Lawrence Summers.

The Treasury Department's spring report on international economic and exchange rate policy was presented to the International Finance and Monetary Policy Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Summers said China was the sole country manipulating its foreign exchange system, but the Treasury would continue to be attentive to the policies of Korea and Taiwan as well.

"There continues to be little evidence that the Korean central bank is intervening in the exchange market," Summers said.

He said that Korea imposed foreign exchange and capital controls using a "real demand rule" that requires foreign exchanges banks to obtain and review documentation of an underlying commercial transaction for most foreign exchange transactions, impeding development of the foreign exchange market and financial sector as a whole.

Korea, he said, should take "bolder steps toward shortening significantly the list of prohibited foreign exchange and capital transactions and to move forward with broad-based reform of the financial sector."

The report showed keen interest in Korea's financial liberalization schemes, especially liberalization of interest rates and expansion of investment opening measures for foreigners, adding that the Treasury's assessment on Korea's financial policies would focus on both substance and timing of the implementations of policies.

The report appears to have a positive assessment of Korea's financial and foreign exchange policies.

"The Korean economy in 1992 experienced the consolidation of a process of adjustment after the 1990-91 period of overheated growth," it said, adding that real gross national product growth slowed to 4.7 percent, compared to 8.4 percent in 1991.

"The level of Korea's net foreign debt declined by 8.2 percent from 11.9 billion U.S. dollars in 1991 to 11 billion dollars in 1992."

Environmental Problems Caused by U.S. Bases Under Review

SK2605035293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0301 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 26 (YONHAP)—A Korean proposal for a joint committee to discuss environmental problems caused by U.S. military bases in Korea has received a positive reaction from the U.S. Government, the Environment Ministry said Wednesday [26 May].

The ministry proposed creating a Korea-U.S. environment subcommittee to comprehensivly tackle problems at bases in Korea through the U.S. Embassy in Seoul and the Foreign Ministry after reading in U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT in November last year that there was serious pollution near the bases, a spokesman said.

There is a subcommittee on public service within the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) that deals with sewage and waste from the bases, but it does not cover the environment as a whole.

Washington has expressed its willingness to discuss systematic and legal devices for the creation of a new subcommittee under the SOFA joint committee in an official reply sent through the Foreign Ministry, he said.

The ministry asked for environmental information on the bases in Taejon and Pohang, recently transferred back to Korea, for an investigation on environmental management in the area.

As soon as it got the materials from Washington, he said, it would open an investigation on soil pollution.

It asked for material on whether the U.S. forces had storage facilities of chemicals containing heavy metals such as zinc and batteries containing cadmium and how they disposed of wastes and managed their oil to check damage in the areas.

The magazine had said that American forces in 10 areas in Korea, Japan and the Philippines had failed to meet environmental regulations.

The weekly said the soil, river, underground water and harbors in and near U.S. bases were polluted with heavy metals and polychlorinated biphenyl, and criticized the Defense Department for negligence in resolving the problem.

It pointed out that Europe had got Washington to pay the bill for cleaning up its environment by taking the issue to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), but developing countries like Korea and the Philippines did not show enough interest in purifying their environment.

EC Commission Urges Expanded Ties With Seoul

SK2605015993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0120 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Brussels, May 26 (YONHAP)—The European Community (EC) executive Commission called Tuesday [25 May] for South Korea-EC relations to be expanded and elevated from commercial- and trade-oriented ties.

The Commission, in a report on relations with Korea to the Council of Ministers, recommended that relations with Korea be raised to a higher dimension based on the current practical tieup of trade and commerce.

The Council is expected to issued a statement on the report, the first to examine EC relations with Korea, after a meeting on June 8 and is likely to seek political cooperation.

Countries with which the EC has political cooperation and regular high-level dialogue are the United States, Canada, and Japan.

In the 40-page report, the EC Commission noted that Korea has made big strides in economic development in the last 30 years and is a major trading country.

It suggested relations with Korea be improved to make a bridge for future advancement to Asia.

It predicted that Seoul would pour its massive defense savings into the private sector following the lessening of tension on the Korean peninsula and said Korea should be regarded as an important economic partner although two-way trade was not substantial.

Bilateral relations were limited to trade until 1991, but the EC should seriously consider Korea now as it was active in market opening and resolving its differences with the EC, the Commission report said.

Seoul To Aid Russia in Defense Conversion

SK2405115893 Seoul YONHAP in English 1131 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 24 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Russia on Monday [24 May] concluded a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in turning defense industries into those for the production of civil goods. The memoradum, set to be upgraded into an intergovernmental agreement upon the effectuation of the basic Korea-Russia treaty concluded last November, was signed by Vice Trade, Industry and Energy Minister Yi Tong-hun and G.G. Janpolskiy, visiting vice chairman of the Russian Defense Industry Commission.

Prior to the signing of the paper, the two countries discussed such cooperation at a Korea-Russia industrial cooperation meeting held at a Kwachon government building. Korea was represented at the meeting by First Assistant Trade, Industry and Energy Minister Pak Un-so and Russia by Vice Chairman Janpolskiy.

At the meeting, the two countries agreed that Korea will cooperate in the Russian efforts to turn a substantial portion of its vast defense industries into those for civil needs in the areas of aviation and space, electronic communications, precision machinery, transport equipment, metal and new materials, energy and bioscience. Korea and Russia shared the conviction that such cooperation would serve as a momentum to orbiting long-term industrial cooperation between the two countries to a full track.

New Plans for Cooperation Detailed

SK2505030093 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 25 May 93 p 8

[Text] Korea and Russia yesterday agreed to speed up bilateral industrial cooperation.

In particular, Korea will actively take part in the privatization of the Russian defense industry for the promotion of industrial cooperation.

The agreement was reached in a meeting between Korean and Russian delegations held at the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy.

Yi Tong-hun, vice minister of trade, industry and energy, led the Korean delegation, while V.K. Glukhikh, chairman of the Russian Defense Industry Committee, headed his country's 10-member team.

The Russian delegation arrived last Sunday at the invitation of Vice Minister Yi.

During the meeting, the two sides shared the view that bilateral industrial cooperation has been steadily progressing since Korea and Russia exchanged a memorandum to that effect in September last year.

Noticeable of the industrial cooperation are technology information exchanges, joint development and transfer of technologies, and joint investment.

To further facilitate the industrial cooperation, both sides agreed to set up an on-line system for technology information database between the Korea Academy of Industrial Technology and its Russian counterpart.

A Korean mission will be dispatched to Moscow sometime in the latter half of this year to set up the system.

The Korean delegation notified the Russian side of a plan to establish an information center for the promotion of bilateral industrial cooperation in Seoul before August this year and set up its branch in Moscow later.

The two sides agreed to expand cooperation in the aerospace industry where Russia has accumulated high tech and jointly advance into private aircraft markets in third countries such as Southeast Asia.

Seoul, Russia To Hold Moscow Talks on Fishing Dispute

SK2205070393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0624 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 22 (YONHAP)—Seoul and Moscow sit down to settle a fishing dispute in the Okhotsk Sea next week and follow it with multilateral negotiations to protest Russia's unilateral closure of the deep sea area, Foreign Ministry officials said Saturday [sentence as received]. Cho Won-il, director-general of International Economic Affairs Bureau, will fly to the Russian capital May 26 for a week-long visit.

Seoul-Moscow bilateral negotiations are scheduled for May 27-28 followed by multilateral talks among South Korea, Japan, China, Poland and Russia June 31-July 1. Russia unilaterally declared the sea an ecological disaster area in February and enforced a moratorium on all fishing activities. Other countries protested the action as a violation of the law of the sea, saying Okhotsk is part of international waters.

Seoul needs to catch 300,000 tons of pollack, including 150,000 tons guaranteed under a quota agreement with Moscow for this year. But even the quota agreement was virtually canceled in a dispute over catch fees. Ministry officials said Seoul and other involved countries will demand an objective joint survey of Okhotsk waters to determine if the area is indeed being depleted of resources. Seoul will propose that the fishing activities be reduced rather than be completely banned for future resource protection, officials said.

Legislators To Visit Russia, Central Asia 30 May-6 Jun

SK2505061693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0317 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 25 (YONHAP)—Reps. An Mu-hyok of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party and Yi Pu-yong of the Democratic Party will visit Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan to survey the living conditions of ethnic Koreans in Central Asia from May 30 to June 6. The two members of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee are to investigate losses and casualties of Koreans during the civil wars there. They are to meet with leaders of the Russian Government and Legislature, and discuss ways to support Korean-Russians.

Maritime Police Investigate Smuggling of Chinese

SK2205073793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0644 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Pusan, May 22 (YONHAP)—The Maritime Police here on Saturday began an investigation into a case in which a Korean-owned deep-sea fishing boat vainly tried to smuggle 237 Chinese to the United States. The vessel involved was 288-ton "Nernaid No. 1" of Honduran registry and owned by Kwak Chae-yong, a Korean now living in Malaysia.

A source at the Maritime Police said the vessel, manned by skipper Chon Chong-chin and seven other Korean seamen, left Pusan on last Jan. 17 at Kwak's instructions and took over 237 Chinese people from Chinese naval craft twice on Jan. 27 and Feb. 10 on high seas off Hongkong.

The vessel, carrying the Chinese stowaways, reached near the U.S. coast later but a contact American vessel did not appear. As the boat wandered about there waiting for the arrival of a contact ship, impatient Chinese stowaways rioted and set things afire aboard the vessel, attracting the attention of an American coast guard boat. The coast guard ship towed the Korean boat to Honduras, its registration country, and Honduras expelled the eight Korean crew persons, the source said.

Article Examines President's Firing of Generals

SK2605022793 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 24 May 93 p 2

[Article by correspondents Kim Chae-hong and Ha Chun-u]

[Text] The government's decision to fire those generals who played a leading role in the 12 December military coup d'etat in 1979 can be interpreted as an expression of its firm intention to reestablish firm military discipline. At a lawmakers' interpellation meeting in the recent special National Assembly session, Prime Minister Hwang In-song, in answering questions on the character of the 12 December incident, said that "the incident was not illegal." Since then, the 12 December incident has again become a controversial issue among the people.

With the inauguration of the new civilian government, newspapers have often carried feature articles recalling various military-related incidents and events reported in the past. Motivated by this, national assemblymen made tenacious interpellations at the recent National Assembly session concerning the government's position toward the 12 December incident.

However, the new civilian government has not yet carried out a thorough reassessment of the character of the 12 December incident, and Prime Minister Hwang had to follow the definition of the incident which the Fifth and Sixth Republics had set in the past. The opposition party promptly took this as a political issue and called for President Kim Yong-sam to make clear his new government's official position toward the incident.

Finding that Prime Minister Hwang's remarks on the incident were becoming a hot political issue, Chongwadae [the presidential residence] announced through its spokesman Yi Kyong-chae that "the 12 December incident was a coup d'etat-like incident accomplished through a mutiny."

With this announcement as an occasion, the military leadership, including Defense Minister Kwon Yong-hae and Army Chief of Staff General Kim Tong-chin, had to work on follow-up measures on this because several high-ranking general officers who played a leading role in mobilizing military troops during the 12 December military coup d'etat are still on the active list.

It was from this point that public opinion came to the fore. Now that the new government has officially defined the 12 December incident as a "mutiny," it is undesirable to leave those officers who played a leading role in the incident in the Army. Furthermore, even retired Army generals and officers on active duty raised their voices in saying that "the phenomenon should be rectified in which it is possible for those Army officers who disobeyed their immediate senior officer and went so far as to direct fire at him and who were, thus, condemned as 'immoral officers,' to enjoy victory after victory in important Army posts as commanders."

In particular, when the reshuffles of the commanders of the First, Second, and Third Armies were carried out last April, those officers who took part in the 12 December incident were promoted to these posts. When almost all of the core general officers who belonged to the personnel connections of the 9th Regiment of the 9th Division under No Tae-u were appointed to important posts from which they will be guaranteed to become commanders of these armies in the future, military circles raised a voice of criticim, defining this as "a turbulent situation in the military reform by the present civilian government."

After the 12 December incident was officially defined by Chongwadae as a coup d'etat-like incident, Defense Minister Kwon Yong-hae said at the meeting of the National Defense Committee of the National Assembly that "the 12 December incident was a disgraceful incident which should not take place again, and we will strengthen education among the officers and men of the Army." Thus, the 12 December incident has been prescribed as an incident to be condemned and punished not only in the military but also among the people.

Voices demanding that the ringleaders of the 12 December incident be punished, defining the incident as "a military revolt through mutiny and disobedience," came out first from the victims of the incident.

The general officers who directly suffered from the coup d'etat forces in the 12 December incident were General Chong Sung-hwa, then Army chief of staff and martial law commander; Major Gen. Chang Tae-wan, then commander of the Capital Defense Command; Maj. Gen. Chong Pyong-u, then commander of the Special Warfare Command (deceased); Maj. Gen. Ha So-kon, then assistant chief of staff for operations at ROK Army Headquarters; and Brigadier Gen. Kim Chin-ki, then commander of the Provost Marshal's Office at ROK Army Headquarters. During the days of the Fifth and Sixth Republics, these general officers advocated that "if we fail to punish the ringleaders of the military revolt, any military coup attempt in the future, when it has taken place, cannot be punished by laws in our country." However, these voices by "the defeated" could not gain strength because those who succeeded in the coup took power.

In other words, during the Fifth and Sixth Republics, the 12 December incident was buried under political pressure and was not an issue for legal argument regardless of whether it was legal or illegal.

However, at the recent special National Assembly session which was convened for the first time since the new civilian government was established, Justice Minister Kim Tu-hui made remarks in connection with the 12 December incident, saying "we will thoroughly investigate the incident if complaints against the incident are filed for legal proceedings."

Major commanders and staff officers who led the 12 December incident were Maj. Gen. Chon Tu-hwan, Maj. Gen. No Tae-u, and Lieutenant Gens. Hwang Yong-si, Yu Hak-song, and Cha Kyu-hon. The number of those officers with the ranks of lieutenant colonel and above who participated in the incident reached over 30.

During the days of the Fifth and Sixth Republics, they occupied high-ranking posts such as defense minister and Army chief of staff as "meritorious retainers for the regime." However, most of them have retired from the Army now. Commenting on the government's decision to fire those officers who took part in the 12 December incident, a general officer who was involved in the incident said "I cannot accept the decision," claiming that all facts which have been reported thus far are different from the actual facts.

Those military units mobilized in the coup d'etat were a total of nine military units, including three airborne brigades and two armored brigades. The total number of the troops mobilized for the coup was over 6,000.

However, it seems that investigations into the incident, if carried out, will be limited to the aforementioned roughly 30 officers.

Our greatest issue of attention at present is that if investigations into the incident are carried out based on the complaints filed by people, how will the investigation authorities deal with former Presidents Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u and other high-ranking active duty military officers.

No, Chon: 'No Official Reaction'

SK2505040493 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 25 May 93 p 4

[Text] Although the two former presidents Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u in Yonhuidong, Seoul, showed no official reaction to the government's step to forcibly discharge generals from the Army generals who were connected with the 12 December incident, it seemed that they were concerned about it.

Whereas former president No Tae-u has been in a bad mood concerning the government's replacement step, former President Chon Tu-hwan has said that "he doesn't care of it because those generals were on the side of former president No Tae-u."

Asked about the recent replacement in the Army, a close aide to No Tae-u evaded making his comment on it in detail, saying that "we cannot talk about the exercise of sole authority given to the president," and that "we are determined not to react to every delicate matter of the political situation."

Another aide, however, said: It seems that he is not pleased to see the government's work to reassess the historic 12 December incident. What disgusts him is the fact that people who worked for him with loyalty have been replaced. Although he remains silent now, he may express his position at an appropriate time.

On the other hand, a close aide to Chon Tu-hwan said: We don't need to show any reaction to it, because a man with a prerogative of supreme command exercises his rights to personnel appointment. Others cannot meddle in the Army personnel appointment. It is none of our business. We don't need therefore to say "This is good, or that is bad."

However, he said: Most generals who were discharged from the Army this time served in the Ninth Division where No Tae-u served as commander at a time when the 12 December incident took place. They seems to be persons from the Ninth Regiment of the Ninth Division under No Tae-u.

The Chon Tu-hwan side is likely to understand that the government's replacement of generals is aimed at No Tae-u rather than at Chon Tu-hwan. Although Chon was told about this personnel reshuffle, he remained silent.

Seoul Erases Records of Kwangju Uprising Participants

SK2505122093 Seoul YONHAP in English 1131 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 25 (YONHAP)—The government on Tuesday formally erased all the ex-convict or prosecution records on a total of 598 people who were criminally prosecuted for their roles in the 1980 Kwangju uprising. The Justice Ministry announced that the 14 persons who had been wanted over the Kwangju incident were removed from the wanted list.

In another step, a special amnesty was granted to 81 other Kwangju participants to make void and null the efficacy of their sentences. They were already pardoned and their civil rights restored, but their criminal records couldn't be erased with a mere administrative action because the minimum required period of ten years has not passed since their sentencing.

The amnesty was a prelude to erasing their ex-convict records completely. Among the 81 were opposition party solons Pak Sok-mu and Chong Sang-yong, and lawyer Hong Nam-sun. The government, however, decided to keep indefinitely as "historical papers" all records on investigation and court sentencing made against those involved in the Kwangju incident.

Defense Expert Urges Revising Military Service System

SK2205015393 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 22 May 93 p 3

[Text] A defense expert has called on the government to revise the Military Service System with an eye to increasing opportunities for conscripts to perform public service as in advanced countries. Dr. Kwon Hui-myon, a senior research fellow of the Korea Institute of Defense Analysis, made the call in a paper on "Improvement of the Military Service System at a panel discussion on the defense policy held yesterday at the institute.

Kwon asserted in his presentation that expansion of public service opportunities would be necessary for conscription-eligible youths who are not enlisted to carry out obligatory military service. The researcher advised the government to introduce a "tax for military service" as a measure to secure funds for the public service program, adding that the government should encourage those who are not on call for active service to perform public services.

He suggested that conscripts work in forestation and forest protection, postmailing, fire-fighting, provincial administrative offices, public health clinics, skilled industrial labors, prison guards and so forth during a definite service period. He proposed that the government coordinate the period of the service in public service appropriately in consideration that draftees in the Army and Navy are authorized to serve the two services for 26 months and 30 months respectively.

According to his proposal, mandatory service terms as prison guards, forest protection workers and public health clinics technicians should amount to 27 months, 30 months and 40 months.

The Defense Ministry and the Office of Military manpower Administration plan to amend the Military Service System, based on opinions expressed at public hearings on the public service. A related official said that the ministry would enforce the new service system next year if case [as published] the revised system passes the National Assembly.

The official predicted that enforcement of the new service system would result in rescission of the reserve conscripts or defense callup. Dr. Kwon estimated those who would serve in public service sectors next year at approximately 87,250 youths and roughly 38,200 in 2005, forecasting that the number of eligibles to conscription would keep on declining gradually after 1995.

Prosecutors Hand in Resignations Over Slot-Machine Case

SK2605083493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0815 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 26 (YONHAP)—Three senior prosecutors handed in their resignations Wednesday [26 May] afternoon over links to slot-machine kingpin Chong Tok-chin.

They are Yi Kon-kae, chief of the Taejon High Public Prosecutor's Office, Vice Justice Minister Sin Kon and Chon Chae-ki, director of the Judicial Research and Training Institute.

The government has indicated it will accept their resignations.

On Thursday, the prosecution will charge Yi Kon-kae with accepting 542.4 million won from Chong. He allegedly used the money to buy a house.

Prosecution Suspects DLP Lawmaker Accepted Bribes

SK2505120993 Seoul YONHAP in English 1127 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 25 (YONHAP)—The prosecution, investigating the case of bribery involving Donghwa Bank President An Yong-mo, told Rep. Kim Chong-in of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] to report to the prosecution on Wednesday. Kim is suspected of having received 300 million won from the banker.

A prosecution source said on Tuesday the Central Investigation Department of the Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office plans to place Kim under arrest after questioning him on the suspicion when he shows up. The source said banker An told prosecutors that during Kim's service as a Chongwadae [presidential offices] senior economy secretary from 1990 through 1992, he had given him 300 million won on several occasions with the request that he be given another term as the bank head.

Meanwhile, the prosecution will urge Rep. Yi Won-cho and former Finance Minister Yi Yong-man now staying abroad to return home. They are suspected of receiving 200 and 500 million won, respectively, from An. If they do not return home at an early date, the government may cancel their passports or take other steps to force them back home, the source said.

Justice Ministry To Free 1,245 Prisoners

SK2605101393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0914 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 26 (YONHAP)—The Justice Ministry announced on Wednesday [26 May] that a total of 1,245 prisoners will be paroled on Thursday in observance of the Buddha's Coming Day Friday.

The ministry said they will include 38 politically implicated prisoner, 1,053 ordinary prisoners and 154 inmates of juvenile reformatory.

Among them will be Yim Chong-sok, one-time Chondaehyop [National Council of University Student Representatives] chairman, accused of pulling strings behind the illegal visit to North Korea by Yim Su-kyong, and 20 other former college students.

"The beneficiaries do not include those North Korean spies who refused to change allegiance, grave anti-state offenders, election law violators and those who are apt to instigate labor disputes," a ministry official said.

Ministry Liberalizes Policy on Insurance Firms

SK2505030793 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 25 May 93 p 9

[By staff correspondent Yi Chang-sop]

[Text] Like banks, insurance companies will be able to lend up to 100 million won to a single individual from today, up from the current ceiling of 30 million won.

The Ministry of Finance [MOF] said yesterday that it will also abolish the current rule banning insurance firms from lending more than 10 million won to a single individual without collateral.

It also loosened its tight control on asset management of insurance companies. From today, insurance companies will be able to buy whatever amount of bonds at their own discretion. So far, insurers have been told to hold bonds beyond 20 percent of their assets.

The MOF plan is part of the government's ongoing drive to reform the financial market. Easing restrictions on asset operations among financial institutions is one of the key components of the government's new financial market reform drive.

Insurance houses are also authorized to raise their short-term funds through repurchase [RP] agreements with lenders. Under the RP agreement, they can sell bonds on condition that they re-buy them on maturity. Thus the new rule will enable insurance firms to have more flexibility in raising their short-term funds.

Insurance companies will also be freed from the current rule prohibiting them from buying more than 10 percent of bonds issued by a single company.

But they will continue to be barred from buying bonds from 30 conglomerates under the private-placement formula under which banks or insurance firms lend money to specific firms in return for buying bonds they issue.

Insurance companies will also be permitted to buy equities issued by small- and medium-sized companies not listed on the Korea Stock Exchange. The MOF said they will be able to buy up to 10 percent of non-listed company stocks.

Furthermore, the MOF said it will no longer ask insurance companies to make prior consultations with the government before they change lending rates. They are permitted to report the change of lending rates to the MOF after they make a decision, it said.

The MOF has decided to ease its tight restrictions so that insurance companies will be given greater freedom in maximizing their asset operations. So far the tight control was to protect policy holders from the potential collapse of insurance houses.

The insurance companies in Korea held 51 trillion won in assets at the end of March, which breaks down to 44 trillion won for life insurance companies and seven trillion won for non-life insurance houses.

Under the previous rule, insurance firms are mandated to hold more than 20 percent of their assets in bonds, less than 30 percent of their assets in equities, less than 15 percent of their assets in real estate and the remaining 10 percent in deposits.

World Bank Report: Social Development Indexes Low

SK2505061193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0330 GMT 25 May 93

["Korea Not Yet an Advanced Nation, World Bank Report Says"]

[Text] Seoul, May 25 (YONHAP)—South Korea's social development indexes are lower than those of advanced countries, though they have increased significantly in the last quarter century, according to a World Bank report on the social development indexes of 185 countries. Korea places 61st in life expectancy, 44th in infant mortality, 65th in population per doctor, 46th in per capita energy consumption and 120th in pupils per teacher in primary education. But the country is in the top quarter in other areas.

It is 17th in births per woman, 20th in tapped water drinkers, 22nd in secondary school attendance, 35th in per capita GNP and 37th in population growth rate. In the ratio of economically non-productive population (those below 15 and above 64) to economically productive population, Korea ranks third after Singapore and Hong Kong. Japan is fourth.

Korea has 36 children per primary school teacher, compared with six pupils each in Norway and Sweden and eight in Belgium. Korea's population per doctor is 1,366, 65th largest among the 185 countries covered by the World Bank's report. In life expectancy, Hong Kong ranks first with 84 years, followed by Japan with 79. Korea falls far behind with 70.

Japan tops the list in infant mortality, with only five infants dying out of every 1,000 born, compared with Korea's 16. In population density, Korea ranks 10th with 428 people per square kilometer, compared with 736 in Bangladesh, which tops the list.

Korea ranks 33rd in newspaper subscriptions, with 146 of every 1,000 people subscribing to a newspaper, which compares with the average of 335 for advanced countries. Japan is first with 568, followed by Germany with 551 and Hong Kong with 550.

Income Taxes To Include Dividend, Interest Income

SK2605090393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0806 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 26 (YONHAP)—Taxes on dividend and interest income will be included in annual global income tax by 1996, or 1997 at the latest, for implementation of a controversial law requiring the use of real names in all financial transactions.

The people's tax burden, which is the ratio of internal taxes to national income, will be raised from 19.4 percent in 1992 to 22 percent or 23 percent in 1997, while earned income taxpayers, expressed as a percentage of total wage earners, will be increased from 46 percent last year to more than 50 percent over the coming five years.

These are the highlights of a tax reform program the Finance Ministry prepared at a policy consultation meeting on Wednesday [26 May] for President Kim Yong-sam's five-year plan to stimulate the economy.

For the expanded global income tax system, the Finance Ministry will start work in 1995 on amendments to the income tax law, ministry officials said. At present, dividend and interest incomes are assessed separately from other incomes.

The officials said the real-name financial system would be implemented either simultaneously with the expanded global income tax system or before.

For the assessment of capital gains on the stock market, they said, a tax on these gains may become part of the global income tax or collected separately at source over the next five years, suggesting that the mandatory use of real names may not be applied to securities transactions until 1998.

To include dividend and interest income taxes in the global income tax system, a database covering income and tax records of all the people must be built. This database will be first built for high-income people and then expanded to include 12 million taxpayers, including wage earners, by 1997 at the latest, the officials said.

In 1992, 6.21 million wage earners, or 54 percent of the total, did not pay any income tax as they were below the tax exemption point, which was 5.5 million won a year for a four-member family.

To redress this situation and increase the number of taxpayers to more than 50 percent of the total wage earners, the exemption point for working people will be frozen at last year's level for this year, the officials said.

Tax breaks will be reduced and global income and property taxes will be increased to raise internal tax revenues to 22 percent or 23 percent of national income by 1997.

Burma

SLORC Official: Gradual Reforms Will Avoid Crises

BK2505114593 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 24 May 93

[Excerpts] An inauguration ceremony for on-the-job training course No. 3/93 for members of the State, Division, District, and Township Law and Order Restoration Councils was held at the Training Center of the Central Institute of Public Services in Phaunggyi, Hlegu Township at 0830 this morning. Lieutenant General Tin U, secretary-2 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], attended the ceremony and delivered the opening address. [passage omitted]

In his opening address, Lt. Gen. Tin U said the training course inaugurated today is the third on-the-job training course for members of the State, Division, District, and Township Law and Order Restoration Councils. [passage omitted] Continuing, he said the National Convention will lay down basic principles needed for drawing up a constitution, which is as important as one's life for the country. Similarly, in the economic aspects, the country is changing its centralized economic system to a market-oriented economic system. He added that by the end of 1992, a total of 8,762 private enterprises were allowed to register and operate. He stressed that during this transitional period, the SLORC is undertaking political and economic reforms gradually and step by step, and based on the concrete condition of the country to avoid the intense political and economic crises that other countries are experiencing. [passage omitted]

Continuing, he said judging from past experiences and lessons, it is obvious that a mechanism of democracy is an impediment to and cannot guarantee development of true democracy and the development of the country that we all are aiming for. Therefore, while restructuring the administrative mechanism for a multiparty democratic system it is especially important not to resurrect the mechanism of democracy. In a multiparty democratic system, the ministers will play a major role in steering a strong and solid administrative mechanism that ensures and maintains the country with stability and peace. That is why the SLORC has managed to transfer the authority to the heads of organizations so that the respective public service organizations can manage and execute and be responsible for the nation's administrative mechanism. [passage omitted]

Thirty-Four Insurgents Surrender 20-30 Apr

BK2605020093 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Terrorist insurgents, who have come to realize that their destructive activities and armed struggle do not serve the interests of the country and the people and understand the work and genuine goodwill of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, have been surrendering along with their arms and ammunition at various military units. The following 34 insurgents surrendered between 20 and 30 April:

Southeast Military Command: Privates Win Naing, Soe Thein, Tin Tun, San Ngwe alias Tin Ngwe, Myo Naing alias Wa Toke, Wunna Sein of sergeant rank, Lance Corporal Maung Zaw, Pvt. Soe Thein, Pvt. Thiha, Pvt. Aung Lin Khaing, Pvt. Aung Thein Khaing from the 201st Battalion of the ABSDF [All Burma Students Democratic Front] and Pvts. Kyi Soe and Soe Win from the 202d Battalion surrendered along with three AK-47 rifles, five magazines, 95 rounds of ammunition, one telescope, one compass, one communications set, and one mine.

Pvts. Saw Palaw and Saw Palaw Htay from the 1st Company of the 7th Karen Battalion of the Karen insurgents and Vance Corporal Saw Myint San from the 4th Company of the 2d Battalion, Pvt. Aung Moe from the 1st Battalion, Pvts. Myint Aung and Than Cho from the 3d Battalion of the 1st Battalion, Pvt. Ngwe Aung from the tax collection unit, Pvt. Soe Kyi from the 1st Battalion, Pvts. Yin Lone and Win Naing Moe from the 2d Battalion, Sergeant Saw Ti Po of the 2d Company of the 1st Battalion, and Sub Lieutenant Saw Kay alias Ohn Maw from the 6th Brigade surrendered with two hand grenades, one carbine, and 45 rounds of ammunition.

Pvt. Nyunt Naing from the Burma Communist Party's 1st Battalion also surrendered.

Northeast Military Command: Pvt. Aung Kyi from the 707th Company of the 3d Battalion of the Loimaw insurgents organization surrendered.

Southeast Military Command: Pvts. Aung Thein, Sein Aung, and Myint Lwin from a terrorist insurgent organization surrendered.

Eastern Military Command: Pvt. Hlat Kyaw from the SURA [Shan United Revolutionary Army] and Ma Sein Nyunt, a medic from the Red Pa-o insurgent organization surrendered.

Southern Military Command: Company Commander Maung Hla from the ABSDF 210th Battalion surrendered with one M-16 rifle, four AK-47 rifles, one carbine, and one hand grenade.

Northern Military Command: Pvt. Sai Kyaw Tint from the ABSDF 701st Battalion surrendered.

It is learned that a total of 129 insurgents had surrendered during April and they were warmly welcomed by officials concerned at various military units.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir Unveils 'Strong Evidence' of Sabah Split

BK2505145793 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1300 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said today Parti Bersatu Sabah, PBS, still has the intention of withdrawing Sabah from Malaysia. Speaking at Subang International Airport on his return from attending the Pacific Basin Economic Council, PBEC, forum in Seoul, South Korea, the prime minister said the intention exists because of PBS' reluctance to cooperate with the federal government on every issue.

Dr. Mahathir said the government was fully aware of the effort to withdraw Sabah from Malaysia and it is the reason why the Sabah Foundation director, Datuk Dr. Jeffery Kitingan, and several others were detained. The prime minister said the federal government has gathered strong evidence from investigations to defend its allegation that there is an effort to split Sabah from Malaysia.

Commentary Views Call for Single World Market

BK2505154593 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 25 May 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed has called for a change to the nations of the world to strive for a single marketplace. The call is the best one to date for the world disturbed by market fragmentation, trading blocs, and protectionism.

Under this context, the strategies for all nations would be easy—that is, to go for open globalism. It should rightly be the first and best choice. But every time it has been relegated to a less important position due to none other than selfish motives by certain countries. It also comes as a shock that there are over 55 regional markets, trade arrangements, or blocs which have been put in [word indistinct]. The irony is that the very parties that support free global trade are themselves the ones standing in the way of open globalism.

The United States and Europe have proven to be hard-headed to this point, standing in the way of a free trading environment. It is indeed exasperating to see their leaders saying that priority is to see a successful end to the Uruguay round global trade talks, but their actions speak otherwise.

The first result is the loss of (?great support) for a great new world order that would allow a free flow of goods and services in trade. But Dr. Mahathir offers trade in the form of the East Asian Economic Caucus [EAEC], which can act as a coalition for an open global trading system. Even without the EAEC, East Asian economic integration is already taking place at a rapid pace.

But what is most encouraging is that the region's growth is completely market- and business-driven. The United States and Europe have derived tremendous benefits in terms of trade and investment. In fact, it is the East Asian countries which have championed free trade where the industrialized West has failed miserably. All one needs is [words indistinct] long overdue successful end to the sundries agreement on tariffs and trade, GATT talks. Just because they cannot agree on the farm subsidy issue the rest of the world is held at ransom. At stake is global economic growth. But these parties are undergoing a painful recession. Yet, stubbornly, they refuse to make concessions.

Other countries, including developing nations like Malaysia, have made sacrifices. Why not they? On top of blocking the global trade (?equilibrium), the U.S. has the audacity to oppose the EAEC. When the caucus can contribute to the globalization process, why would the East Asian nations jeopardize the economic growth achieved so far? The growth has been based on securing foreign direct investments, capital flows, technology, and know-how. Success has come in the form of increased national status for most of the countries which practise export-oriented policies. The truth is that some powers fear it may turn out to be too strong for their liking and good.

Rather than being critical of others, developed countries should join hands with others to forge a common ground. It no longer is ruled or dictated by the West. The sooner they accept this, the faster will the elusive single marketplace become a reality.

Singapore

Burmese Leader Seeks Invitation to ASEAN

BK2505121093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1201 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Singapore, May 25 (AFP)—Burma's intelligence chief Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt is in Singapore in a bid to solicit an invitation to the upcoming meeting of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), regional diplomats said Tuesday. Although Burma and Singapore are tight-lipped about the visit, the diplomats said Rangoon was angling for an invitation to ASEAN's July ministerial meeting, hoping to win some measure of recognition and acceptance for Burma which had become an international pariah because of its human rights abuses. Singapore, the host of this year's ASEAN foreign ministers meeting, is expected to discuss the matter with its partners but the request is unlikely to win support, the diplomats added.

Although ASEAN follows a course of consultative dialogue with Burma despite pressure from the West especially the United States to take a harder stance, members

Indonesia and Malaysia, with predominantly Muslim populations, are opposed to Rangoon's recent crackdown on its minority Muslim Rohingyas. ASEAN, which also includes Brunei, the Philippines and Thailand, have in the past invited Vietnam, Russia, China and Laos to its meetings.

Accompanying Khin Nyunt, who is also first secretary of the junta, on his five-day visit, is Foreign Minister Ohn Gyaw, National Planning and Finance Minister Brigadier General David Abel and Tourism Minister Kyaw Ba.

Khin Nyunt met Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew and Deputy Prime Minister Brigadier-General Lee Hsien Loong and attended a briefing by the Economic Development Board (EDB) Tuesday.

EDB chairman Alan Yeo said there was still room to develop Singapore's bilateral trade with Burma which grew from 30 million Singapore dollars (18 million U.S.) in 1960 to 600 million dollars (372 million U.S.) last year. Yeo said Burmese companies were welcome to set up shop in Singapore and asked the Rangoon to support Singapore businessmen who were operating in Burma. He said the Singapore Manufacturer's Association and the Trade Development Board planned to organise a business opportunities conference to keep Singapore businessmen informed on the latest developments in Burma. Yeo also said he would lead a business mission to Rangoon and Mandalay in July at the invitation of Burmese Trade Minister Lieutenant General Tun Kyi.

Khin Nyunt is scheduled to meet Foreign Minister Wong Kan Seng and visit the Trade Development Board, the Port of Singapore Authority, the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore, the Housing and Development Board and Jurong Town Corp.

Calls on Premier, Others 25 May

BK2505113693 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] The visiting secretary of Myanmar's State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt called on Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong this afternoon.

Gen. Khin Nyunt also met Senior Minister Mr. Lee Kuan Yew and Deputy Prime Minister Brigadier General Lee Hsien Loong.

Gen. Khin Nyunt is here at the invitation of Gen. Lee. He is visiting Singapore to discuss bilateral issues.

Investments in Malaysia Rise in First Quarter

BK2605104393 Singapore BUSINESS TIMES in English 24 May 93 p 1

[Text] Singapore—Investments in Malaysia by Singapore companies are on the rise again, with total approved investments in the first quarter of this year up almost 19 per cent compared with the same period a year ago.

Recent figures released by the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (Mida) showed the respective figures were M$ [Malaysian ringgit] 95 million (S$ [Singapore dollars] 59.8 million) and M$80 million.

"That is a good sign," said Monsor Abdullah, a Singapore-based Mida director. "It shows that Singapore is not forgetting Malaysia."

Last year, Singapore had 184 approved projects worth M$442 million, compared with 108 projects worth M$1 billion in 1991.

Following several years of high growth, foreign investments in Malaysia dropped drastically last year, as companies flocked to labour-cheap China and Vietnam.

The latest figures suggest that Singapore's small and medium-sized companies have led this return. The Republic is the fifth largest foreign investor in terms of investment amount. But in terms of the number of projects, it outpaced all other countries with 37.

"Singapore is coming more for the medium-sized projects," Mr Monsor said.

About two-thirds of these projects were located in Johor, followed distantly by Selangor and Kedah.

Singapore's investments in Malaysia more than doubled from S$267 million in 1988 to a high of S$654 million in 1991, before plunging to S$274 million last year.

Singapore companies have a large presence in Malaysia. A recent survey done by the Singapore Manufacturers Association found that one-third of the 323 companies polled have factories there.

Minister: Overseas Activity Should Benefit Home

BK2505125393 Singapore THE SUNDAY TIMES in English 23 May 93 p 1

[Text] The Government will only back overseas activities which result in spin-offs for the Singapore economy, Trade and Industry Minister S. Dhanabalan said yesterday.

With the current push for Singaporeans to invest and work abroad, and calls for government support of such efforts, he said that the basic aim was to develop a stronger Singapore economy.

So only those overseas efforts which had a "clear, direct and positive" link to the home economy and helped to strengthen it deserved active government encouragement, incentives and assistance.

Speaking at the close of a two-day Regionalisation Forum attended by about 540 top public and private-sector executives at the Mandarin Hotel, he spelt out the difference between going regional, and going regional to build up the Singapore economy.

He said regionalisation did not merely mean more Singapore investments overseas or more Singaporeans working overseas.

Yes, there could be those who invested successfully in projects overseas and who might send home part or all of their dividends or earnings.

"But if that is the only benefit that can be expected, then the emphasis on regionalisation is hardly worth the effort," he said, because such investments added little to economic activity here.

Similarly, highly-qualified Singaporean employees of foreign corporations could be posted overseas and they too would make no direct contribution towards enhancing Singapore's economic interests.

The Government was not against such overseas activities and would not put obstacles in their way, he emphasised. But he also made it clear that the Government's primary duty was to help the growth of the domestic economy and it could not actively assist "projects or activities that do not bring significant benefits to our economy".

He said that if companies shut down their operations in Singapore and relocated, the owners were presumably better off but there would be no spin-off for the Singapore economy.

But if a company relocated its existing activity, and upgraded its Singapore activity to one which was more technology-, knowledge- or skill intensive, there would be very clear benefits.

The same held true when individuals went away to work.

"There is a difference between the economic contribution of a Singaporean who is posted overseas to work for SIA [Singapore Airlines], OCBC [Overseas Chinese Banking Corporation], DBS [Development Bank of Singapore] or the regional HQ of an international company, and a Singaporean working for a Hong Kong company in China," he said.

This was because SIA, OCBC and the regional HQs of multinationals all co-ordinated their world and regional operations out of Singapore.

"In all these cases, there are direct links to our economy and to the creation of high value jobs in Singapore. "Not all Singaporeans working overseas have this type of linkage or contribution," he said.

He said he knew that some of the forum participants would be unhappy to hear him draw such a distinction given the various calls for government help.

But he stressed that the Government, being the steward of scarce public resources, could only help regionalisation efforts which had a clear link to the home economy.

"A direct linkage that enhances the domestic economy is an essential of public-sector participation in regionalisation, " he said.

To implement a regionalisation vision with spin-offs for Singapore, he called for a new and closer partnership between the private and public sectors.

While the basic approach of private sector-led economic growth should not change, the public sector would need to play a more pro- active role.

Putting this in practice may be difficult, he acknowledged, saying "It is a process that requires willingness and effort of both the public and private sectors.

"Never mind if it is a 'marriage of convenience' rather than a 'marriage of love', the important thing is that it must work."

He disclosed two new developments which could help:

He said he had met the chief executives of major statutory boards—such as the Jurong Town Corporation the Port of Singapore Authority and Singapore Telecom—to examine areas where they could help nurture and work with promising local companies on overseas projects.

Beginning on a small scale, this co-operation would "sow the seeds for an enhanced private-public sector partnership for the regionalisation effort".

He endorsed the formation of a Confederation of Business Industries to facilitate networking within the private sector.

There was much that private business organisations could do to help their members invest in the region.

He urged the existing chambers of commerce, Singapore Manufacturers' Association and other trade and industry associations to fulfil this role.

He said that the government would study and implement as quickly as possible feasible proposals thrown up during the two-day forum.

He hoped that the exchange of ideas between the public and private sectors would continue and be institutionalised through the proposed Confederation of Business Industries and other channels.

Several participants told THE SUNDAY TIMES that they found the forum fruitful, and that it marked a turning point in collaboration between the public and private sectors.

Professor Chan Heng Chee, executive director of the Singapore International Foundation, called it "a significant event in that from now on, the signal is that we are on to a new relationship".

Cambodia

More Khmer Rouge Families Vote 25 May

BK2505142293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1409 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, May 25 (AFP)—More Khmer Rouge families came out to vote in UN-run general elections Tuesday, but the United Nations cautioned that it was not a widespread phenomenon. Some 500 civilians from Khmer Rouge-controlled areas came to vote in the northwest resistance zone near the Thai border, UN spokesman Eric Falt said. The Khmer Rouge in that zone also loaned two six-wheel trucks to the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party (BLDP) of former prime minister Son Sann to transport voters to the polls, he said.

"Voter enthusiasm is reported to be high in that area, with villagers walking as far as 15 kilometers (nine miles) to reach some polling stations," he said.

Some Khmer Rouge soldiers and civilians voted in the western Cambodian enclave of Sok Sann, which is only accessible by road from Thailand, he said. "This is not a large phenomenon," Falt said. "It remains restricted to these two areas as best as we were able to establish."

Falt said Monday that 200 Khmer Rouge guerrillas left their guns behind and cast ballots at the Poipet border crossing to Thailand. Officially, the Khmer Rouge are boycotting the election, calling it the legitimization of the Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia. They had vowed to disrupt it. But the expected widespread attacks did not materialize in the first two days, and only scattered attacks of the usual frequency were reported.

Akashi Praises UN Personnel for 'Great Success'

BK2505154493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1450 GMT 25 May 93

[Excerpts] Phnom Penh, May 25 (AFP)—Cambodia's U.N. chief, Yasushi Akashi, said Tuesday more than four million of the 4.7 million registered Cambodian voters had already cast their ballots with the polls still only halfway run.

"This week, the people of Cambodia have delivered a stinging rebuke to the men of violence and expressed their will through the peaceful exercise of their right to vote," Akashi said in a message to U.N. personnel. "Let us salute their courage, their determination, their good humour and their commitment to democracy and the peace process," he added in the message read to the press by U.N. spokesman Eric Falt. [passage omitted]

Akashi added, "The election marks a great success for the United Nations and in particular for the UNTAC (U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia) electoral component." He went on to praise the "bravery, self-discipline, devotion to duty and tireless service" of the 54,000 UNTAC personnel, both foreign and Cambodian.

Akashi put the overall turnout at 85 percent of registered voters. Falt said the southeastern province of Prey Veng had reported the largest number of voters with a turnout of probably more than 90 percent. This was followed by Kompong Spoeu, southwest of Phnom Penh, Kampot, in the south and the port of Sihanoukville, in the Gulf of Thailand, all with about 90 percent turnout. Phnom Penh itself had reported more than 80 percent turnout. [passage omitted]

Further on Akashi Message

BK2505155293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1527 GMT 25 May 93

[By Charles-Antoine de Nerciat]

[Excerpts] Phnom Penh, May 25 (AFP)—Cambodia's U.N. chief Yasushi Akashi Tuesday hailed the elections here as a rebuke to hardliners with more than four million people casting their ballots with the polls only at the halfway stage.

"This week, the people of Cambodia have delivered a stinging rebuke to the men of violence and expressed their will through the peaceful exercise of their right to vote," Akashi said in a message to U.N. personnel in Cambodia. Akashi, a Japanese diplomat, said that participation in the election was 85 percent.

"The election also marks a great success for the United Nations and, in particular, for the UNTAC electoral staff," he said in his message. In the message read out to reporters by his spokesman, Akashi did not identify those responsible for violence. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, a Phnom Penh governement spokesman, in remarks possibly intended to qualify earlier government statements that its forces would resume fighting the Khmer Rouge [KR] if it won the election, said the guerrilla group could transform itself into a legitimate opposition party after the polls. But Khieu Kanharit said the group's hardline revolutionnary leaders should be excluded, adding that they should be put on trial for "masterminding massacres" when in power before an international or a Cambodian court. Analysts believe the government's earlier statements were not well rceived among many Cambodians after more than two decades of wars and upheavals.

Khieu Kanharit also seemed to preach appeasement when he indicated that the Phnom Penh leadership would eventually be prepared to share power with opposition parties, provided they disassociated themselves fully from the Khmer Rouge. He described the leader of the main royalist FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, as a "reasonable" man.

The government and opposition parties could "work (together) for the benefit of the country," he said. This was also in sharp contrast with campaign accusations by the Phnom Penh leadership of collusion between Ranariddh, the son of Cambodia's senior statesman Prince Norodom Sihanouk, with the Khmer Rouge.

Akashi: Election Only 'First Step for Democracy'

BK2505111093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1026 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Siem Reap, Cambodia, May 25 (AFP)—Cambodia's U.N. chief warned Tuesday that U.N.-organised elections currently under way were only the first step for democracy to be achieved.

"This is only the first step. There are many, many other things to be done by all Cambodian people in cooperation with each other," he told voters at a polling site, about 20 kilometers (12 miles) west of this provincial capital. Akashi praised the people for their courage in coming out to vote saying he had been worried they might have been too frightened to do so because there had been sporadic shelling throughout the polling period in many districts of this province.

"I'm very happy that so many Cambodians, despite obstacles, have come to vote," Akashi told the voters in Pouk district.

United Nations officials admitted privately that they had arranged for the voters to come to the site as Akashi arrived fearing the U.N. chief would be greeted by an empty polling station. Only a trickle of people were turning out to vote on the third day of the polls. Sixty seven percent of the province's estimated 269,000 voters, however, had cast their ballots by the end of the second day of voting, U.N. officials announced.

"I see so many people. That is good. It shows you believe in democracy," Akashi said. He asked a group of women leaving the site if they had voted freely without any pressure. When they replied, "yes," he told them they should be proud of themselves. "You are the masters of Cambodia," he said.

Akashi later admitted the elections would not immediately bring peace to the volatile province. "I think, we can expect some more disturbances but the long-term trend will be for stability and peace," he said.

Meanwhile, the U.N. military observers reported mortar fire in the Sotnikum district, about 30 kilometers (18 miles) east of here. "It briefly slowed down polling but the people returned soon afterwards," a military observer said.

Sporadic shelling was also reported in Angkor Thom and in Siem Reap districts, about 17 kilometers (12 miles) east of here. There were no reports of casualties or damage and polling was not seriously affected, they said.

VGNUFC Rejects Reports on DK Troops Voting

BK2605005693 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 25 May 93

[Station commentary: "Denouncing the Slanderous Report that Democratic Kampuchea Troops Have Participated in the Elections in Poipet"]

[Text] On (?the morning of) 24 May, some foreign radios slanderously broadcast that Democratic Kampuchea [DK] troops had participated in the elections in Poipet [a border town in northwestern Cambodia]. This is a slanderous and (?base) broadcast for the purpose of [words indistinct] that has organized the balloting to legitimatize the Yuon [derogatory term for Vietnamese] aggressors and their puppets [words indistinct]. (?The National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK] wishes to deny that) there were any DK troops voting in Poipet or other places. The NADK, like the Cambodian people at home and abroad, is vehemently opposed to the elections organized by UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia] in a bid to decimate the Cambodian nation and people.

Sihanouk: Election 'Fatal Blow' to Khmer Rouge

BK2605064093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0612 GMT 26 May 93

[Excerpts] Phnom Penh, May 26 (AFP)—Cambodian leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk told visiting French parliamentarians here Wednesday that U.N.-organised elections had dealt a fatal blow to the Khmer Rouge. "The Khmer Rouge have suffered a historic defeat and they will not recover from such a blow," the prince was quoted as saying by one participant at the meeting.

The Maoist Khmer Rouge boycotted the polls in which over four million Cambodians, or more than 85 percent of registered voters, had already voted Tuesday, halfway through the week-long electoral process. The massive participation is seen as a major rejection of the guerrilla group, all the more so since it had threatened to disrupt the process by force.

Cambodia's U.N. chief, Yasushi Akashi, has described voting turnout as "a stinging rebuke to the men of violence."

The 70-year-old Sihanouk, Cambodia's most respected leader at home and abroad, told the French MPs that he fully supported the election and welcomed the enthusiasm with which Cambodians had taken part, the sources said. Sihanouk's relationship with the Khmer Rouge has been ambiguous and controversial. [passage omitted]

On Monday [24 May], one day after the opening of the polls here, Sihanouk called on the Khmer Rouge to lay down their arms, also urging all Cambodians to work for national rconciliation. He also said the election would be useless if the guerrillas were to continue fighting.

Sihanouk had returned here the day before polling started from Beijing where he has a home. His return was seen as a show of support for the election. There had been fears that Sihanouk, who had been away from here since mid-April, would stay out of his country during polling time.

Unknown Gunmen Fire on UN Convoys 26 May

BK2605093293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0928 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, May 26 (AFP)—Unidentified gunmen shot at two armed U.N. convoys in eastern and central Cambodia, causing members of the Uruguayan and Indonesian battalions to return fire to repel the attacks, a U.N. spokesman said Wednesday. No injuries were reported.

The first attack Tuesday night [25 May] on the Uruguayan battalion came as the troops were traveling in Kratie province. The patrol returned fire and the attackers fled, U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said. The second came Wednesday in central Kompong Thom province, when a mine-resistant vehicle from the Indonesian battalion along with other U.N. vehicles that were scouting prospects for a U.N. mobile polling site came under fire near the heavily contested Steung district, he said. The Indonesians returned fire, and no injuries were reported, Falt said.

"I do not know if as a result of this attack there will not be voting," he said.

A Phnom Penh government official was also killed by unknown attackers in southern Kompong Speu province, Falt said. He had no details. Falt also reported shelling in northwestern Siem Reap, but said it did not affect voting.

Two SRV Divisions Allegedly in Kampot, Takeo

BK2605031293 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 25 May 93

[Excerpt] According to a reliable report from Kampot Province, the Yuon [pejorative term for Vietnamese] Hanoi sent two divisions of their troops from Vietnam to the Cambodian provinces of Kampot and Takeo recently. Those new regular Yuon forces have now arrived at (Prey Ting) near the township of Tani [in Angkor Chey District of Kampot Province]. The aim of the Yuon soldiers is to plunder votes to make their lackey puppets a winner, thereby allowing the Yuon to further occupy Cambodia. [passage omitted]

Khmer Rouge Reiterate Rejection of Polls

BK2605020893 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 25 May 93

[Station commentary: "The Cambodian People Categorically Reject the Elections Organized by UNTAC for the Purpose of Decimating the Cambodian Nation, People, and Race"]

[Text] 1. A circular jointly issued by the Defense Ministry and the Army General Staff of the Yuon [pejorative term for Vietnamese] puppets in Phnom Penh has coerced puppet soldiers, policemen, and public servants as well as the people to vote in force on the first day of the elections on 23 May [words indistinct] for the party of the Yuon puppets.

2. Starting from the second and third days, that is from 24 and 25 May, the Yuon puppets plan to oppress, to intimidate, and to threaten to shoot to death those who will turn up to vote. This is because they are of the opinion that those voting in those days and the days after are not their supporters.

3. This is the kind of elections organized by UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] that Akashi and other UNTAC chieftains have repeatedly reaffirmed that they will be held freely and fairly in Cambodia. In fact, Akashi and other UNTAC chieftains are, in collaboration with the Yuon aggressors and their puppets, destroying the Cambodian nation, people, and race through the polls.

The Cambodian people reject and do not need the UNTAC-organized balloting at all costs.

Diplomats, Experts Comment on Elections' Success

BK2505112893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1117 GMT 25 May 93

[By Jean-Claude Chapon]

[Text] Phnom Penh, May 25 (AFP)—The massive participation of Cambodians in the first two days of the U.N.-sponsored election marks a true victory for the United Nations after a series of failures that have left peace still a distant goal in Cambodia. The legislative elections are also a clear defeat for the Khmer Rouge, who boycotted the election on the grounds that it legitimized what the faction calls the continued Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia. Through either lack of ability or a change of heart—which one is not clear—the radicals have so far not carried out expected attacks on voting stations.

"I would say that the Khmer Rouge have failed today," said U.S. envoy Charles Twining had said at the start of the voting on Sunday. "That simply leaves the Khmer Rouge in the forest, and I hope they enjoy the forest."

According to Tuesday's statistics from the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), 3.2 million, or 70 percent, of eligible voters cast ballots in the first two days of the six-day process that ends Friday [28 May]. With all the pessimistic, and even alarmist, predictions from diplomats, observers and UNTAC officials before the elections, the high turnout and lack of large-scale disruption surprised everyone.

"Before the election, people were preparing for the worst," said an Asian diplomat. "You know the saying, 'if you prepare for the worst the worst will never happen.'"

Even though the elections appear likely to be declared a spectacular success, the main tenets of the Paris peace accords ending the Cambodian civil war—disarmament and nati@nal reconciliation—remain unfulfilled. Cambodia now has to contend with an armed guerrilla group intending to retake power through violent means. In addition, UNTAC's attempts to create a neutral political environment before the elections turned out to be in vain, as dozens of people were assassinated and another grenade was thrown into the opposition FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] office in Sihanoukville during the voting. Cambodians generally see the election as a vote for peace, but few can explain what post-election changes will bring the elusive goal to Cambodia.

What the Khmer Rouge are going to do, and what is to be done with them, remain key questions. Much hinges on the strength of the radical faction's fighters, which is the subject of some debate.

"This is not a very sharp scalpel we're dealing with," said one Khmer Rouge expert. "It's a very large, amorphous guerrilla operation." The Phnom Penh government has declared it will never cooperate with the Khmer Rouge, and has said that if it wins the election, it will resume its fight. But the government on Tuesday indicated for the first time that the Khmer Rouge could transform themselves into an opposition party on the condition that their leaders be not only excluded but judged for crimes against humanity.

The Khmer Rouge are blamed for the deaths of up to a million Cambodians during their radical reign from 1975 to 1979, when the Vietnamese invaded to oust them from power.

FUNCINPEC's position towards the Khmer Rouge is also murky. Its leader, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, changed his position in a declaration Sunday [23 May], saying he would not allow Khmer Rouge members into a reconciliation government, despite indicating on the campaign trail that the faction's "young intellectuals" would be welcome. But at the same time Sunday, he said the radicals must not be excluded from the "national community."

Diplomats observing the voting said FUNCINPEC was doing well in urban areas, while the government's Cambodian People's Party (CPP) was collecting more votes among peasants. Finding it difficult to call the winner, they predicted that both sides would dispute the results, expected in early June.

Top Government Officials Pay Fines to UN

BK2505134493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1337 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, May 25 (AFP)—Two top Phnom Penh government officials fined for violating U.N. electoral law have paid up, handing over 15 million riel (5,000 dollars) each to the United Nations, a U.N. spokesman said Tuesday. Prince Norodom Chakkrapong, a son of Cambodian statesman Prince Norodom Sihanouk, and the governor of the southern port of Sihanoukville, Khim Bo, were fined on the eve of the election Saturday [22 May] because they held a political rally after U.N. officials told them not to, spokesman Eric Falt said. The two faced possible disqualification from the U.N. election if they did not pay by Tuesday. Chakkrapong is the number two candidate for the National Assembly from Kompong Cham Province, behind Prime Minister Hun Sen, while Khim Bo is the top candidate from his home town.

The two had committed previous offenses and had received previous warnings from the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), said Falt, who would not divulge what offenses. Chakkrapong and Khim Bo had "knowingl, and intentionally" refused to listen to U.N. officials in Sihanoukville on May 13 who told them not to hold a rally they had not received permission for, Falt said. Their rally was planned at the same time as the opposition FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Indpendent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party, which had already received prior U.N. permission, he said. FUNCINPEC was established by Sihanouk and is now run by his other son Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the half-brother of Chakkrapong.

Political Parties Outline Platforms

BK2505112993 Phnom Penh CAMBODIA TIMES in Cambodian 17-23 May 93 pp 6-10

[Text] The following is a questionnaire submitted to the 20 political parties:

Questions:

1. If you are elected to form a government, what will be the three priorities that you tackle first?
2. How are you going to fund these programs?
3. What kind of taxation law will you implement?
4. What economic sectors will be given priority in your development efforts?
5. From which countries will you seek support and assistance?

6. What are you going to do about timber and gem exports?

7. What are you going to do about the increased numbers of homeless and beggars in the cities?

8. Are there any parties that, after the elections, you would be unwilling to form a coalition government with?

9. Are you going to support Prince Sihanouk as head of state after the elections?

10. Would you include the Khmer Rouge in a coalition government?

11. What are you going to do if the Khmer Rouge continue their struggle after the elections?

Answers by each party:
Answer given for the Action for Democracy and Development Party by Chak Saroeun, party chairman:

1. We will eliminate all forms of anarchy in Cambodia and rehabilitate the country; devote one year to rehabilitation and stabilization; and solve economic problems.

2. We will rely on our own natural resources.

3. A tax on consumer goods. We will see to it that the policy on taxation benefits economic development.

4. The agricultural field will get priority, including production for livelihood. Each citizen must have something to eat. We will expand agricultural production and tourism.

5. We will seek assistance from any countries that wish to help us without strings attached, without seeking profit in return for the intervention, and especially those that are geographically distant from us.

6. After the elections, timber export will be ended and all logging will be ceased. Reforestation will be undertaken with international assistance.

7. They will be given education and jobs, and later on all begging will be banned.

8. A coalition will begin with the liberals. And if that is not feasible we will have a party that is close to us. There will be no racial discrimination.

9. This will depend on the National Assembly. We have not yet discussed this matter.

10. We are ready to include the Communists in a government like the Government in France, a state that is under the law based on the Constitution.

11. We will try to talk with the Khmer Rouge but we will not permit a secret army in the country. If fighting continues there will be bad consequences.

Answer given for the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party by Li Toch, aide to the chief of the Economic Affairs and International Cooperation Department:

1. We will settle the question of ethnic Vietnamese in Cambodia; create a new governmental structure; and concentrate on socioeconomic development.

2. Through foreign aid.

3. Taxation will be based on the national situation and our own priorities.

4. Agriculture and heavy industries.

5. All countries.

6. Protect and maintain natural resources by limiting the volume of export.

7. Implement the housing policy and build new housing settlements around Phnom Penh.

8. None, so long as they are useful to the nation and agree with the ideals of FUNCINPEC.

9. Yes.

10. That will depend on Prince Sihanouk.

11. The Khmer Rouge are not going to attack us if FUNCINPEC wins.

Answer given for the Khmer National Congress Party by Pheng Kol, executive president:

1. We will realize reconciliation or unification of all winning parties and deputies; amend the Constitution by introducing the views of each party; and propose that UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] continue its presence until Cambodia achieves genuine peace.

2. We will seek aid from friendly countries. The support money for party members comes from supporters.

3. We prefer business and import taxes to farm taxes.

4. Farm goods, hydroelectric power, and industries, such as textiles and rubber. Also, roads, bridges, and telecommunications.

5. We will seek support from friendly countries in the West, such as the United States, France, Great Britain, Canada, Australia, and Japan, and other countries which treat us on an equal footing.

6. We will immediately end all illegal activities, stop all exports until all the laws are made, create a Ministry of Environment.

7. We will implement a social program, for instance, by providing the poor with vocational training, housing facilities, healthcare, foods, and clothes. We will also expand the Ministry of Social Welfare.

8. None. All parties recognized by UNTAC should be allowed to join the coalition government.

9. Not automatically. The prince is only a leader among many other leaders who should run for election. We will elect the best candidate. That is democracy.

10. We are neutral about this matter. It will depend on the new Constituent Assembly's decision.

11. We will accept anyone who needs reeducation. We will not attack them but will protect ourselves against rebels.

Answer given for the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party by Pol Ham, chief of the press department:

1. Our priorities will be national reconciliation; peace; and national reconstruction.

2. If peace prevails, we will use the $880 million for reconstruction. Otherwise, we will make use of our own human resources, from top to bottom.

3. Taxation cannot be avoided. Taxation will be imposed by allowing the people to decide on it beginning from the poor up. Taxes on radio sets and fertilizers will be reduced.

4. We will develop the five poorest provinces first. We will create private enterprises and free markets that serve the country and we will encourage foreign investment.

5. From the Free World.

6. We will permit reasonably limited exports, protect the country's resources, and develop the economy in accordance with an environmental plan proposed by experts.

7. We will take care of the poorest first.

8. We will seek out the noncommunist factions first. A liberal government must have a strong opposition.

9. We support the idea of giving power to Prince Sihanouk because he is recognized by all parties.

10. We will disarm the Khmer Rouge inside the government rather than letting them remain armed in the jungle. Consultations with other elected members will be necessary.

11. If fighting continues we will not support them. They will be pushed to the wall.

Answer given for the Free Development Republican Party by Yong Chak, party strategist:

1. We will create communications centers (bridges and highways); develop agriculture; and improve health services.

2. With international aid and trade agreements with foreign companies.

3. Business, property, and, later on, income taxes.

4. We will give priority to the fruit and vegetable canning industry and the rubber indistry.

5. The United States, Singapore, Thailand, and Japan.

6. We will create a special ministry to expand and control exports.

7. We will provide shelters, child care, and hospices for them. But this will not be as good as the welfare in the United States.

8. It depends on whether we can or cannot work with that particular party.

9. No comment.

10. It depends on the situation. We will wait and see.

11. We will defend ourselves but we want UNTAC to stay longer to give us support.

Answer given for the Liberal Reconciliation Party by Samret Ret, party chairman:

1. We will reconcile with all political parties; enhance national security; and improve the economy by developing agriculture.

2. Through international aid and national cooperation.

3. Taxes will be levied on the wealthier population only.

4. Agriculture and industries.

5. Western countries, such as the United States, France, and a number of other European countries.

6. We will export them to any countries that need them and give good prices for them, such as Hong Kong and Japan.

7. We Will organize a housing program and give them jobs.

8. None. We want to cooperate with all parties regardless of their political tendencies.

9. It depends on the election.

10. Yes.

11. We will continue efforts to reach an accommodation with the Khmer Rouge.

Answer given for the MOULINAKA Khmer Fighters for Freedom Party by Prum Neakareach, party chairman:

1. Security: Our army will propose that UNTAC allow us to defend Cambodia against anyone who does not comply with the Paris peace agreement; drawing up the Constitution and making laws; and economic rehabilitation.

2. We will use the promised $880-million aid. We also close all borders for a short period and devaluate the riel currency (100 riel will be made equal to 1 new riel).

3. There will be taxes on cigarettes, fuel oil, and alcoholic beverages. We will give 5-year grace period to industrial investors.

4. We will expand land areas by building dikes and will expand the Kompong Som bay area. We will turn Sihanoukville into a second Hong Kong. We will improve the usefulness of the Tonle Sap River by building dams on it to irrigate dry regions and produce electricity. We will develop agriculture through harnessing modern technolgy.

5. Any country.

6. We will stop the exportation of raw materials and will set up small industries and export fish.

7. We will build roads and provide jobs for the poor. Assistance to the handicapped will come from the United States.

8. We will form a government composed of as many parties as possible.

9. We are the first and only group that fully supports Prince Sihanouk and no one else.

10. We are prepared to pardon the Khmer Rouge and to include them in the government if they return to the political process.

11. We will appeal for an end to violence. If the Khmer Rouge refuse to listen, I will fight them.

Answer given for the Neutral Democratic Party of Cambodia by Cham Sing, party secretary:

1. Our priorities will be drawing up a constitution; setting up economic structures, such as transportation and electricity; and developing remote regions and practicing decentralization.

2. From the United Nations, international aid, and resources in Cambodia, such as agriculture and tourism.

3. Taxation will be decided through voting.

4. Agriculture and tourism.

5. We will pursue a neutrality and open-door policy toward foreign countries.

6. We will export timber to capitalist countries under the condition that harvested trees will be replaced.

7. We will create peace and security in rural areas to enable the people to return to their hometowns.

8. We will be neutral.

9. If it is the will of the people, then we will accept him. But we will also field our own candidate.

10. If more than 50 percent of the population wants them to be included, we will include them.

11. We will empower UNTAC to attack the Khmer Rouge. If they agree to be disarmed, we will grant them freedom.

Answer given for the Republican Democratic Khmer Party by Kim Ketthavi, party chairman:

1. Our priorities will be elimination [lub bambat] of all illegal Vietnamese immigrants in Cambodia; disarmament; ending all robberies; and demarcating the land border.

2. Mostly from the United Nations. There is no question of requisitioning these funds.

3. We will institute a two-year tax-exemption period for foreign investors. We will impose an incremental income tax on the Cambodian population.

4. We will develop roads, transportation, and ports, and will give encouragement to foreign investors so they can use our cheap labor.

5. From Asian countries, such as Singapore and Taiwan, and the United States.

6. We will ban all log exports because 70 percent of the forest areas have already been exploited and also because of the ecological changes. We will reforest. As for gem mining, we will find investors in this industry, such as from Japan.

7. We will give them housing, provide them with health care, and build schools.

8. We will ally with small parties, not big ones like the State of Cambodia and FUNCINPEC. We will bring about a balance between the left and the right.

9. No, we will support a different candidate.

10. We cannot ignore the Khmer Rouge issue because the Khmer Rouge are well armed and could destroy us within minutes. We will have to negotiate and must be ready to cooperate.

11. We will ask the United Nations to take stiff measures against them, such as the measures for Yugoslavia.

Answer given for the Khmer Neutral Party by Sok Divanthan, adviser to the party chairman:

1. Our priorities will be improvement of the people's living standards; economic development based on our own efforts and not relying on foreign aid; and development of the whole country in accordance with a free-market system.

2. We will rely on national resources: agriculture, forests, and fishing can be developed immediately. Small industries, services, and tourism will be promoted as best we can.

3. Financial laws will depend on the Constitution. Decisions will be taken by the Constituent Assembly, not us.

4. Particularly agriculture because peasants make up 85 percent of the Cambodian population.

5. From international organizations, especially the NGOs [nongovernmental organizations] already in Cambodia, and from Free World countries such as the United States, France, Great Britain, and Germany.

6. We will suspend exports for three months in order to work out proper export regulations to avoid any further damage and catastrophes. We will replant trees.

7. We will give priority to helping the poor; develop the countryside; round up the poor and settle them in model villages and the suburbs; and give the poor the job of being city street cleaners.

8. We will cooperate with all political parties, including the Khmer Rouge.

9. We support the policy of reconciliation, but we oppose the concentration of power in the hands of Prince Sihanouk.

10. Yes, if they accept the peace process.

11. We will appeal to the Khmer Rouge to join us and will make preparations for another election. If the attacks continue after that, the Khmer Rouge will be considered outlaws and be counterattacked by the armed forces.

Answer given for the Free Republican Party by Kong Tham, party vice chairman:

1. Our priorities will be security throughout the country; general education for the people and a government which fights corruption; and development of the infrastructure and communications.

2. We will use the $880 million donated for reconstruction, UN programs, and foreign aid.

3. We will apply the same income tax system as the one used in the United States. There will be no taxation of the poor and no taxation of foreign firms.

4. Agriculture, tourism, and free economic zones.

5. Neighboring countries in Southeast Asia, as well as Taiwan and Japan.

6. We will put an end to all illegal logging activities; we will also issue control regulations.

7. We will buy land to build houses and to develop the suburbs for them. We will create free trade zones to attract a large part of the poor.

8. We will consider some political parties.

9. We accept Prince Sihanouk as head of state but do not support his policies.

10. We do not discuss this issue. It will depend on the attitude and actions of the Khmer Rouge.

11. Anyway, we must fight the rebels.

Answer given for the Cambodia Free Independent Democratic Party by Long Bora, party chairman:

1. Our priorities will be fighting corruption; developing the country in the Western ways; and creating a Cambodian dollar as a new currency that is attached to the Singapore dollar.

2. Support from Western countries.

3. There will be no taxation during the first two years.

4. Modern agriculture, communications, water supplies, and the export of gems.

5. From the United States and European countries.

6. There will be a new export organization placed under the control and protection of the government.

7. We will clean the cities within one week. We will find jobs for the poor; advise them about social security; and give them food, education, medical care. We will make stringent traffic laws.

8. No comment.

9. We support Prince Sihanouk as a king and not as a political leader. We support the monarchy as in Great Britain or Spain.

10. We are prepared to include the Khmer Rouge as the French Government includes the Communists, provided they agree to follow this system.

11. We will attack them in accordance with the law after giving them three chances. If they still refuse, the United Nations should settle this problem in the same manner it did with Iraq.

Answer given for the Republican Coalition Party by Cheng Heng, party chairman:

1. Our priorities will be national reconciliation; peace; the economy.

2. First, we will use the $880 million for reconstruction. We will also rely on foreign aid.

3. There is no clear plan [khmean kamnat chbah loah].

4. Agriculture, transportation, electricity, and communications.

5. The United States, France, friendly countries, and also some Communist countries.

6. We are going to pursue reforestation because our forests have been almost completely exploited. We will have strict regulations. This also applies to fishing.

7. When security and transportation are restored the people will return to the counryside. It will take at least two years to accomplish this.

8. We are prepared to cooperate with all political parties.

9. No, because Prince Sihanouk always cooperates with the Khmer Rouge and we do not support a Communist regime.

10. If the Khmer Rouge abandon their ideology, we will accept them.

11. Without aid from Thailand or China the Khmer Rouge cannot fight.

Answer given for the Rassemblement Pour la Solidarite Nationale Party by Song Morissa, chairman:

1. Our priorities will be enhancement of national security; stabilization of the political situation; and control of health programs.

2. From foreign aid.

3. There will be import-export taxes, business taxes, and administrative trade taxes. There will be no income taxes initially.

4. We will give priority to heavy industry, agriculture, and small and medium-size enterprises.

5. From Western countries and Japan.

6. We will wait for the decision of the new government.

7. We will send them to the countryside to work in and develop the provinces.

8. None. We accept all parties provided they are capable, active, honest, cooperative, and dedicated to a historic mission.

9. Yes, according to the decision of the assembly.

10. No, because they oppose the constitution and national conscience.

11. We must stop the Khmer Rouge. They will become outlaws.

Answer given for the Parti Democrate by Chan Bun-han, campaign strategist:

1. Our priorities will be making laws and ensuring order; creating a human rights charter; and accommodating all parties.

2. We will get funds from overseas Cambodians in France and the United States and from Cambodians throughout Cambodia.

3. We have no comment on that for the time being.

4. The economic sectors to be emphasized will be infrastructure, roads and ports, agriculture, and industries.

5. From all friendly countries that wish to help us.

6. We will consult with experts on logging. We will control the gem trade.

7. We will build houses, schools, vocational centers, and shelters.

8. There will be no alliance with any party.

9. Yes.

10. That depends on the majority opinion in the new government.

11. We must defend ourselves.

Answer given for the Cambodian People's Party by Prum Sokha, first deputy chief of the party cabinet:

1. Our priorities will be continuing to promote national reconciliation—for example, by uniting the armed forces both inside and outside the country; promoting the free-market system and pluralism and reforming the administrative structure; and implementing a foreign policy of peace, friendship, neutrality, and nonalignment.

2. First with aid from the world community and second with the existing resources of the state.

3. There will be indirect taxes, such as taxes on exports, goods, and services, and income taxes, but there will be no taxation of agricultural workers for a period of five to 10 years.

4. We will improve agriculture; light industries, such as handicrafts and local production; and the service industry and tourism. We will undertake exploration of petroleum and energy and create an atmosphere conducive to investment.

5. We will seek good relations with all countries if those countries approach Cambodia on an equal footing and respect its neutrality.

6. We will continue to log and mine gems, but within the regulations based on the technical advice of the experts. We will strive to protect natural resources and undertake reforestation.

7. We will give them education and vocational training. We will cooperate with social organizations and the NGOs in order to expand that program.

8. National reconciliation should result from the elections. The Khmer Rouge have made themselves unfit for the Legislative Assembly.

9. We support him.

10. If the Khmer Rouge return to the peace process and win seats in the elections, yes, that is it.

11. There will be no civil war. On the contrary, there will be only hostilities and rebellions. It appears that the Khmer Rouge will already be outlaws after the elections. The world community and the Cambodian people will support a legal government.

Answer given for the Free Khmer Farmers Democratic Party by Bon Pisit, party chairman:

1. Our priorities will be creating security through legal powers; creating political and economic control; and improving human rights conditions.

2. If possible, through the natural resources of our country.

3. There will be no taxation.

4. Agriculture.

5. None.

6. We will consult with experts concerning the possibility of selling them to other countries.

7. We will use foreign aid. We will trade with other countries to get funding for social programs.

8. None.

9. We support Prince Sihanouk within a monarchy like the one in Japan.

10. We will include the Khmer Rouge in a coalition government if the Khmer Rouge stop killing the people.

11. We will strengthen the armed forces to fight the Khmer Rouge.

Answer given for the Liberal Democratic Party by Uk Serei, party vice chairman:

1. Our priorities will be political stability; the creation of peace in the military, economic, social, and political spheres; and the beginning of a rural development program.

2. Aid from the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank.

3. No comment.

4. Agriculture, the services industry, and light industry.

5. All parties signatory to the Paris peace agreement.

6. We will implement a logging policy for the protection of the environment. We will institute a state-run company to control the exoport of gems.

7. We will implement land reform.

8. None. We will form a coalition government with any parties that would help bring about stability.

9. Yes, but it should be the result of an election.

10. Yes, but under the condition that they be disarmed and have another identity. After that, we will accept the moderate elements among them.

11. With the formation of an internationally recognized government, the Khmer Rouge will become outlaws and then we will have to fight them.

Made for the Nationalist Khmer Party by San Sokkheng, party official in charge of the election:

1. Our priorities will be making ours a civilized country like Japan, Australia, and the United States; making laws of the state that can be said to be fair; and rehabilitating and restabilizing agriculture and the economy.

2. We seek aid from foreign countries.

3. That depends on the decision of the new government.

4. We will develop agriculture, animal husbandry, and fish breeding.

5. We seek aid from any country that wishes to help us.

6. We will trade with other countries.

7. We will have a social program that is accepted by the new government.

8. No comment.

9. Yes, we support him.

10. That depends on whether the Khmer Rouge wish to join the new government.

11. We will strengthen talks with the Khmer Rouge because they are also Cambodians.

Made for the Cambodge Renaissance Party by I Phandara, party chairman:

1. Our priorities will be expanding national education; expanding agriculture; and restoring the foundations of the economic system.

2. From foreign aid.

3. We are not sure about this yet. It depends on the situation in the country.

4. Agriculture, animal husbandry, tourism, transportation, and communications.

5. None.

6. We will permit logging for local consumption only. No more exports will be allowed. The bulk of the precious stones will be kept in the country. Only a small quantity will be exported, but not to Thailand.

7. We will use the investment in gem mining to build houses for them.

8. We will not join with any warmongering parties.

9. Yes.

10. None.

11. There will be no aggressive actions against the Khmer Rouge. We support an international policy of peacefully settling conflicts.

Indonesia

Alatas: All Must Accept Cambodian Election Results

BK2505150293 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1400 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Jakarta, May 25 (ANTARA)—Foreign Minister Ali Alatas has said that all factions involved in the Cambodian general elections must be ready to accept whatever results of the elections.

"Those defeated must accept their defeat so that the elections will get "Free and fair" recognition from the United Nations," he said here on Tuesday.

Alatas also said that the Indonesian Government will continue to support the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) and Prince Norodom Sihanouk until the end of the transitional period between the elections and the formation of a new government.

According to Alatas, since the beginning Sihanouk has indeed wanted a national reconciliation in order to settle the Cambodian problem comprehensively. "I believe Sihanouk will be capable of playing his role positively in an effort to create a national reconciliation," he said.

Speaking on the two-day proceeding of the Cambodian elections, Alatas said that he was happy because as elections can be considered as running smoothly although there were minor incidents.

"I am encouraged that the previous two days of the elections could run smoothly despite small-scale incidents still happening there," he said.

On the occation the minister also said that Indonesia has fulfilled UNTAC's request to send 57 general elections officers as observer. "We have also fulfilled UNTAC request to send some Indonesian youths to be placed at polling stations."

On the other hand, he said that Indonesia has also sent armed personnel carriers to strengthen UNTAC's troops.

Commenting on the number of voters which has reached up to 70 percent of all registered voters, Alatas said that the fact reflects the wish of the Cambodian people to end the conflict. He pointed out that the enthusiasm of voters casting their votes in the polling stations throughout the nation also reflects the people's wish to have a government and leaders of their own choice.

Jakarta Sends Armored Vehicles to Phnom Penh

BK2505144293 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1338 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Phonm Penh, May 24 (ANTARA)—Two of the nine armored vehicles to be delivered to Cambodia carried by U.S. Air Force plane, C-141 Starlifter, arrived in Phnom Penh late Monday.

Indonesia sent armored vehicles of its seventh Cavalry Battalion to help U.N. peacekeepers in Cambodia. They will be deployed in Phnom Penh and Kompong Thom to protect voters in this week's U.N.-initiated elections, said operational staff officer Major Gatot Subroto of the Indonesian Garuda XII D peacekeeping contingent.

According to Subroto, the other seven armored vehicles, which will be carried by the same airlifter plane, will arrive on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Four of the armored vehicles will be deployed in Phnom Penh and four other will be placed in Kompong Thom province, while the posting of the remaining one, type P-150, has not yet been confirmed.

The battle vehicles with 48 troopers under the command of First Lieutenant Abdul Haris Napoleon will arrive in the Cambodian capital with a number of grenade launchers, machine guns and anti-tank weapons.

Meanwhile Garuda XII-D troops have reportedly withdrawn from the Bhotong, Kraya and Popok sectors in Kompong Thom, as there were no polling stations set up there.

"They are shifted to other sectors in Kompong Thom to reinforce the U.N. peacekeepers in Sandan and (Skun)," Subroto explained.

He said that the Garuda XII troops both in Phnom Penh and Kompong Thom are on a red alert since the Khmer Rouge vowed to disrupt the first election in the war-torn country held from May 23 through 28.

Meanwhile some mortars attacks reportedly took place in Kompong Thom districts of Ankor Bay, Turkong, Prek Kdam and Cheung Prey. The voting booths in the districts were closed following the attacks.

Some of Indonesian troops have also been deployed in the region where Indian troops are mobilised. But no casualities have been reported from the attacks.

An unidentified group blasted a train around Pursat in Battambang province and Kompong Chnang Monday.

Indonesian troops passed by the rails on Sunday evening to guard 20 coaches of supplies.

World Bank Official Assures Suharto of Donor Aid

BK2605103193 Jakarta THE INDONESIA TIMES in English 17 May 93 p 1

[Text] The Consultative Group for Indonesia (CGI) which will meet in Paris in June is expected to offer the same amount of aid as last year's U.S. $4.9 billion, Vice President of the World Bank Gautam S. Kaji told the press here Saturday.

Kaji who paid a courtesy call on President Suharto said that most Indonesian development programmes were financed by domestic sources of fund.

"But this does not mean that foreign fund is not important," Kaji said.

Suharto and Kaji had briefly discussed about the coming meeting of CGI in June. The group which replaced the dissolved IGGI [Integovernmental Group on Indonesia] holds periodic meeting to discuss on their aid for Indonesian development.

Kaji said that Indonesia should have to maintain 85 percent of development fund which should come from domestic sources.

Kaji asserted that the year 1992 was a successful year for Indonesia in which the country could maintain high economic growth. Non-oil export grew dramatically.

He also said that Indonesia's deficit of current account could be reduced, while keeping healthy foreign exchange reserves.

"The high inflation rate of the first quarter of this year was the result of last year's progress, but the price control is still necessary," Kaji added.

Replying to a question, Kaji said with the aforementioned progress Indonesia should not cease its effort to eradicate poverty. "Not many a country is able to reduce as speedily as Indonesia has done," he added.

President Suharto was reported to have underlined his concern over attempts to reduce the number of poor population. "Indonesia is one of a small number of countries which has been able to reduce poverty both proportionally over the total population and over the absolute figure," Kaji said.

Indonesia has been able to reduce the number of poor population at average 2 percent per annum, on the same time keeps the annual population growth of 2 percent.

Kaji shared the same view with Suharto that attempts to reduce poverty must be intensified because the number of the poor is still large. It would be a gigantic effort to identify poverty enclaves and increase the living standard.

President Suharto sees a close relation between poverty, environmental policies, and natural resources. Suharto also indicated great challenge within the next 25 years in the development of human resources because it is the only way to achieve progress that could be enjoyed by majority of population.

Kaji said that they also examined Indonesia's economic progress to reduce poverty and develop human resource would greatly depend [on] the capability of economy itself to grow.

"To maintain economic stability is important. But it is also important to upkeep competitive ability, particularly in the rapid change of global situation," Kaji added.

Suharto Meets Australian Military Chief 26 May

BK2605023693 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Australia is concerned over the Spratly Islands dispute in the South China Sea, but is confident that no armed conflict will break out as long as the claimants to the islands are willing to hold talks. Australian Chief of Defense Forces Admiral Beaumont said this to reporters after he paid a courtesy call on President Suharto in Jakarta this morning. He said Australia will play an active role to solve the dispute through dialogues.

Replying to another question by reporters, Adm. Beaumont said that Southeast Asia will remain stable despite the closure of the U.S. bases in the Philippines because the United States continues to have its interests in the region. Earlier, he also said that Australia fully understands Indonesia's decision to purchase warships from Germany.

Adm. Beaumont was installed as Australian chief of defense forces in April only. He was accompanied by Indonesian Armed Forces Commander General Feisal Tanjung when he paid a courtesy call on President Suharto this morning.

Australia To Increase Investment, Improve Trade

BK2505152693 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1342 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Jakarta, May 25 (ANTARA)—The Australian Government is trying to increase its investment in Indonesia by asking its businessmen to make a deal with Indonesian entrepreneurs.

"The Australian Government has started to realize that Indonesia deserves to be recognized as its supporter to strengthen its export marketing," Deputy chairman of the promotion section of the Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM) Sugihono Kadarisman said after a meeting with an Australian investment mission here on Monday.

After the introducing of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), Australia has made serious efforts to establish bilateral relationship with its neighbours, including

Indonesia, he said adding that Australia has so far merely strengthened its internal market and export to the United Kingdom.

At the meeting between some 50 Indonesian businessmen and their counterparts, the 17 Australian entrepreneurs said that they are keen on making investment in metal and pipe companies, furniture firm, construction, training, consultations on industrial and managerial affairs, animal husbandry, and cotton spinning sectors.

"They are also interested in making investment in marine tourism, waste processing, mining, and soybean processing sectors," Kadarisman said.

He pointed out that the bilateral trade relations between the two countries are needed to be improved particularly in developing the growth triangle area which covers the Nothern Territory in Australia, and Irian Jaya, East Nusatenggara and East Timor in Indonesia.

Growth centers in the eastern part of Indonesia (IBT) must be developed in a bid to materialise the growth triangle area, he said.

The number of Australian investment has increased every year. According to a BKPM's statistical data on April 30 this year, the country is ranked 10th in the list of 42 foreign investor countries.

So far the Australian investment worth US$ 1.3 billion in 127 projects in Indonesia.

Laos

SRV Finance Minister Arrives 25 May

BK2605015893 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Ho Te, finance minister of the SRV, and delegation arrived in Vientiane at noon yesterday for a visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR]. The visit is in response to an invitation of Khamsai Souphanouvong, finance minister of the LPDR. An official of our Lao Finance Ministry said SRV Finance Minister Ho Te and his delegation were warmly welcomed by the Lao counterparts—Khamsai Souphanouvong and a number of Lao officials concerned. The visit, he said, is aimed at promoting and strengthening the friendship, special relations, and all-round cooperation between Laos and Vietnam. It is part of the implementation of the joint statement issued between governments of the two countries as well as the agreement on cooperation for 1993 reached between the Lao and Vietnamese cooperation commissions.

During the visit, Ho Te and the delegation will hold discussions and exchange experiences in the financial sphere with a delegation of our Lao Finance Ministry led by Minister Khamsai Souphanouvong. They will jointly adopt concrete measures to create appropriate conditions for cooperation and mutual assistance between the financial services of the two countries. The two sides will also exchange views on possibility of mutual assistance in the financial field and on term of payments between the two countries.

Minister Ho Te and his delegation will stay in the LPDR for the visit for six days. During the stay, they are scheduled to pay courtesy calls on various Lao leaders and to work together with certain branches of Laos. They will also visit some production bases and places of historical significance in Vientiane capital and Vientiane Province.

Thai Defense Minister Visits Luang Prabang

BK2605010093 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, His Excellency General Wichit Sukmak, national defense minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, and his delegation left Vientiane for a visit to Luang Prabang Province on their way home. The Thai defense minister and delegation were scheduled to stay overnight in Luang Prabang Province before returning to Bangkok on the morning of 26 May.

Gen. Wichit Sukmak and delegation were seen off at Wattai Airport by His Excellency Lieutenant General Choummali Sai-gnason, national defense minister, along with high-ranking officers attached to the National Defense Ministry. Also on hand to see the Thai delegation off at the airport was His Excellency Nikhom Tantemsap, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to Laos.

Counterfeiter, Drug Trafficker Sentenced

BK2205130793 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] On 19 May, two people accused of invlovment in a criminal case, who were charged with counterfeit baht [Thai currency] banknote and drug trafficking in Bokeo Province, were given imprisonment verdicts by the provincial people's court. The legal lawsuit was judged before responsible personnel of services concerned and it was witnessed by representatives of the local administration.

The first offender of the criminal case, Khamken, 55, a villager of Ban Viangmai in Houai Sai District, Bokeo Province, was sentenced to seven months' imprisonment. He was charged with being bought and hired by bad elements to cross the border into Thailand to contact and receive counterfeit Thai banknotes totaling 40,000 baht from Thai nationals in Chiang Khong District, Chiang Rai Province, for use in border areas. The distribution of the counterfeit baht notes in the border areas has thus caused disturbances to the Lao economy and society.

The second criminal offender, Pong Thanousin, 31, a cadre of the postal service of Bokeo Province, was sentenced by the provincial people's court to two-years imprisonment [words indistinct] on a charge of drug trafficking. The offender confessed to the court that he crossed the border to buy a car from Myanmar [Burmese] traders who accepted 40,000 baht from him as a deposit. But as the car was not available immediately, the Myanmar traders then gave him two bags of white heroin of lion brand, weighing 800 grams. The offender carried the white heroin with him back to Laos. As he reached Ton Pheung District on 19 February 1993, he was searched and found with the heroin by local officials. He has been detained and the heroin has been seized. Officials concerned are now making arrangements to burn and destroy the seized heroin in Bokeo Province soon.

Philippines

Seoul TV Interviews President Ramos

SK2505002893 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1240 GMT 23 May 93

[Interview with Philippine President Fidel Ramos by Pak Tae-sok, director of the KBS International Department, at the Philippine Presidential Palace; date not given—recorded, interviewer speaks in English with translation from Korean subtitles, Ramos speaks in English with superimposed translation into Korean]

[Excerpts] [Pak Tae-sok] You will visit the ROK for the first time as Philippine president. We welcome your visit to the ROK. Would you tell me about the purpose of your visit?

[Ramos] Above all, I as well as the entire Philippine people thank President Kim Yong-sam for inviting me.

President Kim Yong-sam took office on 25 February. The 25 February is the significant day for the Philippine people. 25 February 1986 was the day when our Philippine people carried out the democratic revolution and put an end to the dictatorial regime.

The purpose of my visit to the ROK lies in promoting the relations between the ROK and the Philippines and in pressing ahead with trade, investment, and tourist exchanges between the two countries. As for the tourist balance of current accounts between the two countries, the Philippines has been in the red.

In particular, the purpose of my visit is to learn from the course of the ROK economic success. The ROK has been evaluated as one of the four dragons in Asia.

In fact, the ROK was ruined in the war. Thus, there was nothing left in the ROK in 1952-1953. We cannot but be greatly touched by the ROK economic growth. I think that the Korean people's diligence and sincerity have constructed today's ROK. We highly evaluate the ROK people's diligence and sincerity. [passage omitted]

[Pak] What do you think about the reform policy and the future of the ROK?

[Ramos] The reforming policy will greatly develop the ROK diplomacy. I also think that the reforming policy will contribute to reunifying North and South Korea.

[Pak] You are expected to hold summit talks with President Kim Yong-sam. What will be the major issues at the summit talks?

[Ramos] A method for improving the ROK-Philippine relations and, in particular, a method for promoting economic cooperation between the two countries will be discussed.

The Philippines is newly emerging as a promising region for investment, trade, tourism, and economic cooperation. The Philippines expects many ROK enterprises to invest in the Philippines. The Philippines also hopes that many ROK enterprises will carry out economic activities in the Philippines.

To this end, the Philippines keeps up the policy of opening economy. President Kim Yong-sam and I will exchange opinions about the issue concerning the stability and security of the Asian-Pacific region. We will also discuss the recent situation of the Asian-Pacific region.

The Philippines and the ROK are the countries of the Asian-Pacific regions. If both countries cooperate with each other, this will contribute to the security, stability, and peace of the Asian-Pacific region.

[Pak] What do you think about the meeting of the Pacific Basin Economic Council [PBEC]?

[Ramos] Leaders of the Asian-Pacific region, experts, economists, and other state leaders will gather there. In particular, President Kim Yong-sam will deliver an opening address. Malaysian Prime Minister will also speak there.

[Pak] Would you tell me your opinion of the economic cooperation between the ROK and the Philippines? What kinds of investments should be promoted between the two countries? Do you have any incentive to induce the ROK enterprises to invest in the Philippines?

[Ramos] Considerable ROK enterprises have carried out their activities in the Philippines. I expect that it will not be long before the ROK becomes the largest country investing in the Philippines.

In particular, I expect the ROK enterprises to invest in the fields of power stations, distant electronic communication facilities, transportations, and tourism. I also hope that the ROK enterprises will invest in electronic industry in the Philippines. [passage omitted]

[Pak] The entire world is concerned about North Korea's withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. What is a method for resolving the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula?

[Ramos] The Philippines is the only country that stipulates in its Constitution that nuclear weapons should not be used in the Philippines. The Philippines' constitution prohibits nuclear weapons from being deployed and used within the Philippines' territory. In case that atomic energy is used even for a peaceful purpose in the Philippines, this issue should be carefully taken into account. The use of atomic energy should not violate the constitution.

The Philippine Government is greatly concerned about North Korea's NPT withdrawal. The Philippine Government is greatly concerned with the fact that North Korea has not implemented its duties pursuant to the NPT. The United Nations and all peace-loving countries should strengthen a cooperative system to persuade North Korea to return to the NPT.

[Pak] What is your opinion of the issue concerning the reunification of the Korean peninsula?

[Ramos] I believe that the Korean peninsula will be reunified after all. When I visited the ROK in October 1990, I saw that North and South Korea positively were holding dialogues for reunification. I then also saw that a vice prime minister-level contact between North and South Korea was being held.

The Beijing Asian Games showed the rapid progress in the North-South reconciliation. The North-South reconciliation will contribute to the Korean peninsula and to the peace of the Asian-Pacific region. Of course, the North-South exchanges have recently been suspended. I, however, think that the North-South exchanges will be resumed soon. [passage omitted]

[Pak] What is your opinion of the global trend of the regional economic bloc?

[Ramos] The global trend of the regional economic bloc is a phenomenon emerging after the cold war era. The times of the two great economic bloc ended. Neighboring countries are forming a regional economic bloc based on their economic interests. The world economic bloc becomes subdivided. The Asian-Pacific region can be viewed as an economic bloc.

If the Asian-Pacific region is subdivided, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations [ASEAN], which consists of the six members, will be a small economic bloc. The ASEAN members have established close relations based on political and economic interests.

I think that such a trend should expand into the Asian-Pacific region. The Asian-Pacific region is growing most rapidly in the world. Thus, the Asian-Pacific countries should strengthen opening and cooperation, strengthen competitiveness, and cope with other economic bloc.

The ASEAN is already forming the Asian Free Trade Zone. The Asian Free Trade Zone will contribute to lowering tariffs among the member countries. The supreme tariff rates about all items will not exceed 5 percent in 15 years. [passage omitted]

[Pak] The ROK will soon dispatch engineer corps to Somalia. What are the important matters that we should take into account?

[Ramos] When the Korean War broke out on 25 June 1950, according to the UN resolution on aiding the ROK to defend democracy, the Philippines sent troops to the ROK for the first time as an Asian country.

The Philippines sent the five support battalions to the ROK during the three years of the Korean War. We also helped the UN activities by sending troops to Congo in the early 1960. The ROK and the Philippines sent troops to Vietnam and fought together. The Philippines sent troops to Cambodia. The Philippines is considering helping the UN activities in Somalia. [passage omitted]

[Pak] Do you have any message to deliver to the Korean people?

[Ramos] I once again highly evaluate the courage and diligence of the Korean people. I believe that the Korean people will constantly exercise their abilities of overcoming crises and tribulations.

I expect that the ROK will make a great contribution to the stability and economic growth of the Asian-Pacific region. I think that the ROK is in a position to play such a role in accordance with its great economic growth. We hope that the ROK will develop as a free and democratic state and will achieve the reunification of the North and the South.

[Pak] Thank you very much for giving us time in spite of your busy schedule.

[Ramos] Thank you.

Manila To Repay $300-Million Paris Club Debt

HK2505031493 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 25 May 93 p 17

[Text] The government has decided to pay some $300-million worth of debts to the Paris Club creditors that will fall due in the third quarter of this year.

A Central Bank [CB] official said this decision was made after the government failed to come up with a new economic program with the International Monetary Fund.

A new deal with the IMF was needed before the government could initiate another round of restructuring talks with the official creditors grouped under the Paris Club.

The CB official said the country could afford to pay the maturing obligations because of its healthy level of international reserves, which stood at $5.91 billion as of May 18.

During the second quarter, the government shelled out $392 million as payment to the Paris Club.

Ramos To 'Junk' Bataan Power Plant, Build New

HK2505030593 Quezon City MALAYA in English 25 May 93 pp 1, 7

[Report by Ellen Tordesillas]

[Text] Seoul (via PLDT [Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company])—President Ramos Monday indicated he would junk the $2.3-billion Bataan Nuclear Power Plant [BNPP] and construct new power plants instead.

President Ramos said an offer from a South Korean firm to convert the mothballed plant into a combined cycle plant had a "too high" price tag.

"It can be done. It's going to be expensive," Ramos said in an interview with Yonhap News Agency.

Another Korean firm, the Korea Power Engineering Co Inc, had proposed to upgrade BNPP's nuclear facilities, but the President cited a survey which showed Filipinos were opposed to nuclear power.

Results of the survey, recently conducted by the Social Weather Stations, said that despite the power crisis, majority of Filipinos are against operating the mothballed plant as a nuclear facility, he said.

The President said instead of converting the plant, "we will just build new power plants somewhere else."

He compared the 620-megawatt plant to an old suit. "Either you buy a new suit or you repair the old one. But if the old one is going to cost too much to repair, you buy a new suit."

The BNPP is the subject of arbitration before the International Chamber of Commerce in Geneva. The Philippine government has sued Westinghouse Electric Corp for $200 million, alleging fraud and construction defects.

In New Jersey, a jury last week dismissed charges Westinghouse Electric Corp and Burns and Roe Corp bribed former President Marcos to obtain the contract to build the mothballed plant.

South Korea is dependent on nuclear power for about one-third of its energy needs. Of a total power supply of 21,111 megawatts, 7,616 megawatts are supplied by nine nuclear plants.

Ambassador Raul Rabe said the Korean government plans to build 12 more plants in the next 12 years.

Rabe said Westinghouse constructed Cori-I, one of the nine nuclear plants in operation, while another is being manned by Filipino technicians who were originally trained, at an estimated cost of P1 [Philippine pesos] each, to run the Bataan facility.

House Approves Bill on Central Monetary Authority

HK2605034693 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 26 May 93 p 17

[Report by Sheila Samonte]

[Text] The House of Representatives yesterday ended almost six months of fierce plenary debates on a controversial measure creating a Central Monetary Authority (CMA).

Amid the House leadership's pronouncements hailing the measure as the "Republic's way of repaying its debt of gratitude" to the cash-strapped Central Bank [CB]. Minority leaders could only let out a faint cry: "It's Government's way of rewarding failures."

Under Section 133 of House Bill No. 7037—the thorny provision on the CB's transfer of its P308-billion [Philippine pesos] liabilities—the National Government (NG) "shall execute and deliver to the proposed Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas [Central Bank of the Philippines] (BSP) a bond payable at the end of 25 years from the date of issuance at such principal amount and interest as to yield the BSP a positive net worth and a positive result of operations."

Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya, appropriations committee chairman and proponent of the financial restructuring scheme, said the NG would issue a 25-year bond amounting to not more than P300 billion payable to the CB to "partly" cover the bank's liabilities.

Interests of P20 to P25 billion that will be paid to the CB, he added, will be on a regular annual basis, based on an rate of 7% to 8%.

Belying allegations on the transfer of financial burden to the NG, Mr. Andaya explained that the bond will be restructured during the 25-year period. Out of the interest to be paid by the NG on the issuance, the CB will create a sinking fund to assist the NG in the bonds' redemption after such period, he said.

Underscoring the significance of the CB restructuring scheme, the Camrines Sur solon siad the "the CB will now be in a better position to avail of international credit to the "fullest" and that such "will push down interest rates through which substantial savings for the NG may be realized."

He further pointed out that a 1% decrease in interest rates will translate to a P5-billion savings for Government.

Congress Passes Bill on Foreign Investment

HK2105031593 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 21 May 93 pp 1, 5

[Report by Sheila Samonte with Cristina D.C. Pastor]

[Text] The bicameral conference committee approved Wednesday night [19 May] a measure providing for the long-term lease of private lands by foreign investors, designed to infuse greater stability in governing the business operations of foreign investors in the country.

The lawmakers hope to have the committee report ratified within the week, in time for an announcement to be made by President Ramos when he visits South Korea next week.

House Bill No. 4906, principally authored by Negros Oriental Rep. Margarito Teves, and its Senate version, authored by Sen. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, allows foreigners to lease private lands for investment purposes for a period not exceeding 50 years, renewable for a maximum of 25 years.

Under the existing law, Government allows only a 50-year lease on land: An original lease of 25 years, renewable for another 25 years.

Under the bill, long-term leases on private land are allowed for the establishment of industrial estates, factories, assembly or processing plants, agro-industrial enterprises, land development for industrial or commercial use, tourism, and other related investment undertakings.

Tourism Projects

In the case of tourism projects, the bill provides that foreign investors will be required to invest a minimum of at least $5 million, "70 percent of which shall be infused in the tourism projects within three years from the signing of the lease contract."

The Malacanang-certified measure was up for Congressional approval before Congress went on a Holy Week recess, but was derailed due to last-minute objections from Speaker Jose de Venecia, Jr., the House bill's co-author.

Mr. de Venecia objected to the initial provision stipulating a minimum investment requirement of $50 million for tourism projects, saying the Senate-proposed provision was "highly impractical."

The Speaker's sentiment was shared by President Ramos, who reportedly appealed to the Senate panel for the reduction of the said minimum requirement to $5 million.

To ease a possible backlash from the country's agriculture and nationalist sectors, the conference committee also decided to exempt prime agricultural lands from the coverage of the lease, said Ms. Macapagal-Arroyo.

The declaration of policy was further strengthened with the inclusion of a "constitutional mandate to conserve and develop our own patrimony."

The measure is part of the nine-point investment package introduced by Mr. Teves to the Lower House since the previous Congress, aimed at enhancing the country's competitiveness (in relation to other ASEAN countries) in attracting foreign direct investments.

With the economic reforms in place, he said the Philippines "can be the most attractive in ASEAN in terms of legal infrastructure."

At present, Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia are getting the biggest share of the foreign investment pie, he said.

Reforms

Included in Mr. Teves's package of reforms are the following: The five-year customs and duty exemption for capital imports, the net operating loss carry-over and accelerated incentives liberalization of the entry and operation of foreign banks, fine-tuning of the build-operate-transfer (BOT) scheme, suspending the nationality status of multilateral financial institutions, the expansion of the Condominium Law, and the formulation of a national training development plan.

Most of these reforms have already been translated into laws.

Manila Resumes Talks With Military Rebels

HK2605030293 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Peace talks between the government and the Reform the Armed Forces Movement [RAM] have resumed with the hope and belief that there is going to be great success in the peace effort. Haydee Yorac, chairman of the National Unification Commission, said it is important the talks have resumed since the public's trust relies on the favorable results of the negotiations.

Professor Alfredo Tadiar on the government panel and former General Edgardo Abenina of the RAM lead the resumption of the peace talks.

Thailand

Ministry Views Cost of U.S. Drug Patent Demands

BK2605014193 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 May 93 p A1

[Text] The Public Health Ministry claims that Thailand stands to lose much more than the Commerce Ministry has estimated if the country accepts US demands on the protection of new pharmaceuticals.

The Public Health Ministry's report submitted at a meeting of. the House Committee on International

Trade Policy, estimated that Thai consumers and local producers will lose more than a hundred billion baht if the government decides to provide the licence holder of a new drug the exclusive right to act as sole distributor for seven years, as demanded by the US Trade Representative.

Thai law at present provides a two-year "safety monitoring period" during which the ministry closely monitors the possible side-effects of new drugs. During that period, the licence holder has exclusive rights to market the products.

If the government extends the safety monitoring period from two years currently, to seven years, the Public Health Ministry estimated that the extension would hinder local firms from producing about 150 new chemical products. In addition, the country might lose foreign currency to the tune of Bt[baht]125 million a year from importing new drugs.

If Thailand fails to show progress that is satisfactory to Washington by July 31, the US Trade Representative may impose trade retaliation against Thai exports under the Special 301 section of US trade law.

In the spirit of compromise, Uthai earlier suggested that Thailand extend the safety monitoring period to four years. Uthai said the extension of protection on new drugs would cost Thailand only Bt [baht] 25 million a year. The Cabinet has not yet approved Uthai's suggestion.

The Committee on International Trade Policy yesterday met for the first time to consider what Thailand should do to improve the protection of intellectual property rights to avert possible retaliation.

Speaking after the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchapak said Thailand would consider whether to provide retroactive protection for "pipeline" drugs, those which were invented, but not yet marketed, before the Patent Act BE [Buddhist Era] 2535 took effect only after the completion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks.

According to the Public Health Ministry's report between 421 to 900 new drugs would be entitled to the pipeline protection if the government decides to provide protection to new drugs for seven years.

"If Thailand decides not to yield to the US request to increase the protection to seven years, it will be able to save about Bt306-Bt655 million on wholesale costs, or Bt613 million-Bt1.3 billion on retail costs," the report said.

On the safety monitoring period, Suphachai said Thailand could provide a four-year period for new drugs without having to amend Thai law.

The meeting, however, reached no conclusion. Suphachai said he had instructed the working committee, chaired by Commerce Ministry Permanent Secretary Phachara Itsarasena, to go through the intellectual property rights details before forwarding its conclusion to the Committee on International Trade Policy afterwards.

Deputy Premier Discusses Trade Talks With U.S.

BK2605040793 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak told reporters that the International Economic Committee has met to discuss the direction of negotiations with the United States on pharmaceutical patent protection in line with the agreement of the Uruguay Round of world trade talks. He said:

[Begin Suphachai recording] The first important guideline is that we will adhere to the agreement of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks, which will incorporate a set of measures for the protection of intellectual property. Secondly, it is our view that the U.S. demands in connection with the neogotiations can be classified into four major areas: namely, suppression of copyright and trademark violation; the functions and power of the Pharmaceutical Patent Committee; the compulsory licensing of pharmaceutical patents; and protection for drugs already invented but not yet marketed in Thailand. We discussed the economic, social, and political impact of our compliance with the U.S. requirements. We have to weigh the pros and cons to see if it worth our efforts to have our country dropped from the U.S. trade retaliation watchlist. If we have to comply with the U.S. request, we will ask the Food and Drug Committee to determine the economic damage. [end recording]

Medical Groups Oppose Drug Patent Initiative

BK2605021393 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 May 93 pp B1, B2

[Excerpts] As Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon is trying to convince the Committee on International Trade Policy that Thailand should provide more protection on new pharmaceuticals to protect Thai exports. The minister expects to face a bitter battle with the local medical profession for his initiative.

While Uthai was holding the first meeting with the committee at the Government House, two medical associations yesterday publicly expressed their opposition to his plan.

The Medical Student Federation of Thailand and Rural Doctor Society yesterday released letters saying the extension of protection to new drugs to appease US counterparts does not signify 'righteousness' .

Most of all the two bodies consider the US demand to scale down the authority of the Thai government to supervise the licence holders of new drugs, as Washington's attempt to intervene in the domestic affairs.

'If the Thai government bows to the US demand, it would indicate that Thailand has allowed the US to intervene in its domestic legislative affairs,' the letters said.

The US Trade Representative Mickey Kantor has pressured the Thai government to amend the Patent Act to provide the retroactive protection on new drugs and also to provide marketing exclusivity to new drugs for seven years. Without progress to satisfy Washington before July 31, the US trade watchdog will consider imposing trade retaliation on Thai exports.

But the US deadline appears to spur public opposition. 'Under the US' demand for a 7-year marketing exclusivity for new drugs under the context of the 'safety monitoring' period by citing the health issue as its major concern, there lies a hidden agenda; the US wants to monopolize the distribution of new drugs in Thailand,' the letter from the Rural Doctor Society said.

The letter from the Medical Student Federation echoed the same idea. It also suggested that the Thai government should maintain its authority to revoke the rights of the licence holders under 'compulsory licensing' to avoid unfair trade.

'In the US, where the government's authority to control the drug distributors is limited, the US consumers have already faced a problem from the high drugs prices on the market. If the Thai government decides to comply with the US requirement, the similar problem would occur to Thai consumers,' the letter said.

As the International Trade Policy Committee met for the first time yesterday to considering on the patent protection issue, the ministers seemed to be split in opinion on what the country should do about the US request.

Uthai preferred to compromise with the US request on the patent issue. He is seeking the Thai government's approval to provide 4-year marketing exclusivity for new drugs. He said the extension of protection on new drugs would cost Thailand only Bt [baht] 25 million.

[Passage omitted] The Doctor Society's release asserted that the retroaction protection as required by the US is much more than that required internationally. The backdated protection is not contained on the chapter on Trade Aspects Related to Intellectual Property Rights in the draft agreement of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks.

Officials View Cambodian Polls, Border Situation

BK2505142793 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Regarding the latest situation concerning the election in Cambodia, particularly the Khmer Rouge stance of supporting the election, Prime Minister Chuan Likphai thinks this development will make the situation in Cambodia not as serious or a cause for concern. In any event, the situation will have to be followed.

[Begin Chuan recording in progress] ...Thailand as well which wants the Khmer Rouge to participate in the election process. Therefore, although it did not field any candidates the fact that it participated by not opposing the election is a good thing. [end recording]

Regarding the report that the Japanese prime minister will withdraw Japanese forces from Cambodia, Major General Sombat Rotphothong, deputy defense minister, believes that the withdrawal will be made after the election and that UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] will be able to keep the election under control. In any event, the situation after the election remains to be seen.

[Begin Sombat recording in progress] ...such as whether Khmer Rouge soldiers [as heard] will contest the election. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Lieutenant General Chettha Thanacharo, First Army Region commander, said the military attacks in various Cambodian locations were small-scale and that this kind of situation would continue until formation of a government or completion of the constitution drafting process, providing there is no external military support.

[Begin Chettha recording] I cannot predict anything now until after the election results are known and whether the results will be as anticipated. Once this is known after 28 May, we should be able to predict what might happen, whether it will be violent, and whether national reconciliation will materialize. We pray that national reconciliation will be achieved. [end recording]

Gen. Chettha also said the intensity of the Cambodian bandit problem has decreased because Cambodian soldiers near the border have had to help fight away from the border. The number of Cambodian bandits will also decrease significantly because the First Army Region's Burapha Force has been taking drastic action in conjunction with the Border Patrol Police, the provincial police, and the local administration department officials.

Paper Lauds Elections' Success

BK2605010793 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 May 93 p A6

[Editorial: "Determination of Khmers must be admired"]

[Text] United Nations officials in Cambodia have been overwhelmed by support for the country's first multiparty elections in more than 20 years. They are also surprised to find Khmer Rouge soldiers laying down their arms and queueing to cast their ballots. Also, many Cambodians who are voting are understood to be supporting the royalist Funcinpec [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party of Prince Norodom Ranariddh, which promises to include the Maoist guerrillas in a government of national reconciliation.

United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (Untac) election officers said 200 Khmer Rouge fighters walked into a polling station in the Thai-Cambodian border town of Poipet on Monday [24 May] and asked to vote. Senior electoral officers also said civilians in some Khmer Rouge controlled areas are having their confiscated registration cards returned by the guerrillas and then being allowed to vote in other districts.

With a turnout of nearly 70 per cent in the first two days, in this week-long election, one theory runs that the Khmer Rouge now realizes that it has made an enormous blunder. In the battle for the hearts and the minds of the people it was a mistake to pull out of the UN peace plan and to threaten to disrupt the UN-sponsored polls with violence.

It is thought that the Khmer Rouge soldiers who voted in Poipet cast their ballots for Funcinpec, the only party offering them a place in the future government.

Funcinpec is the political wing of Prince Norodom Sihanouk's guerrilla army, which for 13 years fought with the Khmer Rouge against the Vietnamese-installed Phnom Penh government. Sihanouk's son Ranariddh has been campaigning on a platform of national reconciliation, saying that Funcinpec doesn't like the Khmer Rouge, but neither does it like war.

On Monday, Sihanouk himself also called on the Maoist guerrillas to renounce violence and embrace the concept of national reconciliation.

The Phnom Penh government of Prime Minister Hun Sen on the other hand claims that a vote for Funcinpec is a vote for the Khmer Rouge.

Most observers however say that Funcinpec could win this election partly because of its royal connections.

While Funcipec's desire for national reconciliation may be admirable, the inclusion of the Khmer Rouge could plunge the world community into a diplomatic dilemma. The Maoist guerrillas were responsible for the deaths of over a million Cambodians during their reign of terror between 1975-1978. One also must balance the image of unarmed Khmer Rouge soldiers going to the polls with their violent military actions in other parts of the country prior to May 23.

But promoting democracy means embracing the turbulent uncertainties of the ballot box. The mandate for Funcinpec has been one of national reconciliation, and that means bringing all the warring factions and various other elements in Cambodian society together.

Governments which might feel uncomfortable about a Cambodian government of national reconciliation have to realize that if democracy is to be respected and promoted in Cambodia, the will of the people must be respected.

Papers View Prospects for Future

BK2605082593

[Editorial Report] Three Thai papers—THAI RAT, MATICHON, AND SIAM POST—carry editorials in their 26 May issues on the election in Cambodia.

The 500-word THAI RAT editorial on page 3, entitled "The Khmer Rouge Joins Government," says the Khmer Rouge have probably surprised the world by refraining from harassment of the Cambodian election, noting that "turnout in certain Khmer Rouge-controlled areas was exceptionally high. It has been learned that the Khmer Rouge instructed their people to vote for FUNCINPEC [National Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] candidates. The Khmer Rouge realized that its intimidation of voters and obstruction of the election would create hatred among the populace, and they therefore suddenly switched to supporting FUNCINPEC."

The editorial continues: "Khmer Rouge support for FUNCINPEC will result in that party winning more parliamentary seats and enable the Khmer Rouge to command gratitude from FUNCINPEC. Because Hun Sen's party will not gain a majority in the election, Prince Sihanouk will be able to form his national reconciliation government, which will avoid further bloodshed in his country. The Khmer Rouge is clever. If it participates in the election it may win only an insignificant number of seats, but by giving its votes to the FUNCINPEC, the Khmer Rouge will be in a better position to join the new Cambodian Government. It will not be long before this proves to be true."

The 650-word MATICHON editorial on page 8, entitled "The Cambodian People Set Their Own Destiny," notes the reported high election turnout in Cambodia, adding: "The high turnout reflects the Cambodian people's eagerness for a democratic system. The international community should support this desire of the Cambodian people to choose their own legislative and administrative leadership. The Cambodian people will finally be setting their own destiny after 30 years of wars of liberation and power struggle."

The editorial says because the Cambodian people have chosen the path of peace, "the local political groups, particularly the Khmer Rouge, should respect the people's desire to end all forms of violence and create a new political arena by including themselves in the election process, instead of continuing to wage a war of liberation."

The MATICHON editorial concludes: "The best path for Cambodia's political future is reconciliation among the political parties which are taking part in the election, particularly the parties of Prince Ranariddh, Hun Sen, and Son Sann, in order to reconstruct the country. Continued disputes among them will only weaken the country, which now urgently needs reconstruction. If the Khmer Rouge declines to show any goodwill after the election, it will be up to the three parties to work together for the future of the Cambodian people."

The 450-word SIAM POST editorial on page 4, entitled "The United Nations and Cambodia," after commending the Cambodian people's determination to vote despite bad weather and a hostile environment, says: "The Cambodian people deserve sympathy for their 30 years of suffering. They leave their hopes with the United Nations. However, once the United Nations departs Cambodia after the election, it remains to be seen how the Cambodian people's peace and safety can be ensured. This is a point of the utmost concern."

Chat Thai Party Severs Links With Opposition

BK2605014993 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 May 93 p 3

[Text] The Chat Thai Party announced yesterday it would stop associating with the other five opposition parties, at least for the time being, citing the Chat Phatthana Party's [CPP] alleged insincerity in the bloc's censure plan against the coalition.

"We have been cheated all along so we will not associate with them," Chat Thai spokesman Prathuang Wichanpricha said yesterday.

Mr Prathuang was referring to the Chat Phatthana Party's decision last week to submit a censure motion against the entire Cabinet without the participation of the Chat Thai Party.

Opposition members have split into two camps after Chat Thai insisted on censuring only certain ministers and not the entire Cabinet as hoped for by the CPP-led faction.

The disagreement forced the two camps to work out a compromise by postponing the censure bid to October but the agreement collapsed after the CPP decided to submit the no-confidence motion against the entire Cabinet to the House Speaker on May 19, without Chat Thai.

This move prompted Chat Thai to subsequently forward its motion against individual ministers to the House Speaker on the same night.

Mr Prathuang claimed yesterday that Chat Phatthana had asked Chat Thai to submit their motions to the House Speaker on May 20, but Chatchai Chunhawan's CPP submitted its motion a day earlier without informing Chat Thai leader Praman Adireksan.

"Since the CPP has no sincerity, it will be difficult for us to continue to trust the party," Mr Prathuang said.

Chat Thai has not been in contact with the CPP since the conflict and it will not discuss new coordination efforts at least until after the censure debate in Parliament, he said.

The CPP, he said, appeared to be confident that its motion would force Prime Minister Chuan Likphai either to resign or to dissolve Parliament.

But Chat Thai believes that the Prime Minister is well prepared to answer the Opposition's questions during the debate.

"The Prime Minister will do well in the debate because he is a better speaker than the other MPs. Moreover, people still believe in his honesty," Mr Prathuang said.

"Therefore, we are confident that there will not be any House dissolution."

At the same time, CPP secretary-general Prachuap Chaiyasan yesterday said the opposition parties were still unified.

Trying to quell rumours about rifts in the Opposition, Mr Prachuap said the submission of the two no-confidence motions was a "strategy".

"We could not tell reporters everything we are working on. This is our strategy," he said.

Mr Prachuap said the motion against the entire Cabinet was like "a swamp" and the one against individual ministers was like "a deep pond", which meant the public would receive thorough information about the alleged weaknesses and failures of the Chuan Government.

Speaking after an opposition meeting at the Soi Ratchakhru residence of Gen Chatchai last night, Mr Prachuap said all 153 votes of the Opposition were still bound together and the parties were now jointly working on collecting information and setting topics for the censure debates.

The debates would point out the economic social and political policies on which the Government had still not achieved progress.

Mr Prachuap said the censure debate would be within the principles of the parliamentary system and well-organised.

Cobra Gold Military Exercise Termed Successful

BK2505132993 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] The joint Thai-U.S. military exercise codenamed Cobra Gold 93 has concluded and achieved the desired goals. This morning at the Third Army Region meeting hall in Phitsanulok Province, military Chief of Staff General Wisit Atkhumwong presided over the ceremony to close the joint Thai-U.S. exercise for 1993. Also in attendance were senior Thai and U.S. officials.

The 12th joint exercise between the two countries was held from 18 April-23 May to exchange new tactics, to develop combat readiness and military capabilities, and to evaluate combined operations in the mountain, jungle, and sea zones. At the ceremony, Gen. Wisit said the joint exercise benefits Thai soldiers in that it enables them to train using modern tactics and with new technology brought in by the United States. Thai soldiers gain new knowledge which could be used in Thai Armed Forces development. The joint exercise has been a success.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant General Mongkhon Amphonphisit, the head of the Military Tactical Department in his position as director of the Cobra Gold 93 excercise, said that both sides exchanged tactics well and that there were no casualties on either side. The local people near the site of the exercise benefited from an improvement in their quality of life and health.

Editorial Calls for Enforcement of Existing Laws

BK2505010793 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 May 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Enforce present laws; no need for new ones"]

[Text] DEPUTY Interior Minister Chaowat Sutlapha appears to believe firmly in the supposed deterrent effect of capital-punishment, apparently believing it to be capable of curing all social ills or human misdeeds. He reportedly said Sunday that he would propose a bill to the Government to seek the death penalty or harsh imprisonment for irresponsible factory proprietors who, intentionally or accidentally, cause death or injury to their workers by deliberately disregarding safety standards on their premises.

That the deputy minister is acting with good intentions is not at issue. His aim is to prevent a recurrence of the doll factory disaster two weeks ago which left a total of 188 workers buried alive or burned to death. Quite obviously the factory management must accept blame for its lack of regard for the safety of its workers by illegally modifying the structure of the factory building so that it became a fire trap. As such, stiffer penalties must be meted out against those directly or indirectly responsible for the deaths incurred so as to set an example to other greedy entrepreneurs so that they will learn to put a greater value on the life of their poor and underprivileged compatriots. But to institute the death penalty for such an offence needs more careful consideration. It is not an issue to be judged with emotion, but with wisdom and thoughtfulness, taking into account the global trend which tends to favour the abolition of the death sentence. Besides, capital punishment has not been proven to be an effective deterrent against crime or human misdeeds as has been manifested, for example, in the high incidence of drug trafficking despite the mandatory death penalty.

As far as the law and its enforcement are concerned, the major problem in this country rests not with the lack of law or leniency of penalties, but with laxity in law enforcement by the officials concerned. And the doll factory disaster bears testimony to flaws on the part of the law enforcement officials concerned, namely officials of the Public Works Department, as much as it does to the apparent greed and disregard of human life of the management of the ill-fated factory. The tragedy could have been avoided in the first place had the Nakhon Pathom provincial public works officials been responsible enough to inspect the structure of the factory building to see whether it was in line with the design, and not blindly granted approval.

It is right that stiffer penalties, involving both imprisonment and fines, should be meted out against those factory proprietors who flout the law. And if the existing laws are not harsh enough, then they must be amended. But putting the blame solely on the entrepreneurs and seeking harsher penalties against them only accomplishes half the task. Unscrupulous and corrupt officials who collaborate with the wrongdoers by deliberately neglecting their responsibilities must also be punished just as harshly. Sadly however in most cases these officials rarely end up in jail or are heavily fined because they happen to have the right connections. In the worst cases, they may be fired, but by that time they are already well off.

What is as important as the law itself and its enforcement is the will of policy-makers in the higher echelons, Cabinet ministers in particular, to see to it that the law is strictly enforced and applied to all alike without their intervention, influence-peddling or interference on behalf of the wrongdoers.

Vietnam

Vo Van Kiet's New Zealand Visit Reported

BK2505130993 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 25 May 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet is in New Zealand on a three-day official visit at the invitation of Prime Minister Jim Bolger. The prime minister and his party were met upon their arrival on Monday by Deputy Prime Minister Don MacKinnon.

The prime minister has visited the Terapa Food-Processing Equipment Factory in Hamilton, the Mirinz Meat Industry Research Institute, and a dairy farm outside Cambridge. He expressed deep interest in New Zealand's experience in developing stockbreeding, the food-processing industry, and the production of dairy and meat for export. He hoped New Zealand could share its experience in this field with Vietnam, so as to help Vietnam turn its own animal husbandry industry into a major export producer.

Since 1970, relations between New Zealand and Vietnam have been improved. In 1972, the ruling Labor Party government lifted its trade embargo against Vietnam, and decided to resume reconstruction aid to

Indochinese countries. Since the two countries established diplomatic relations in June 1975, New Zealand continually improved relations with Vietnam despite the Cambodian situation. Many New Zealand delegations have visited Vietnam. Late last year, the New Zealand minister of commerce and twenty businessmen came to Vietnam to expand economic and trade ties between the two countries.

This visit to New Zealand by Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet marks a new step in relations between the two countries.

25 May Activities Detailed

BK2605075993 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 25 May 93

[Summary] "Today, 25 May, the second day of his visit to New Zealand, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, his wife, and his entourage toured a number of economic and cultural establishments in the city of Rotorua, about 700 km north of the New Zealand capital."

At (Oha Aki) thermoelectric plant, the prime minister visited the turbine group and a pipeline that channels hot air from various underground wells to the plant, and heard a senior engineer brief him on the program for the exploitation and use of hot air obtained from an area dotted with volcanoes.

"The prime minister hoped for greater innovations from the New Zealand electricity sector so it could soon exploit all its two remaining areas of hot water wells."

With its terrain largely covered by hills and mountains, New Zealand has achieved remarkable results in afforestation, forest protection, and timber processing. Now New Zealand agriculture ranks third in the world.

"The prime minister visited a forest research institute, where he studied various examples of New Zealand's successful achievements in this field of activity."

"He was pleased to learn from the head of the institute that the institute has had a cooperation project with Vietnam. He wished the insitute success in this cooperation."

When visiting the Maori Institute of Art, one of New Zealand's most renowed museums, the prime minister and his entourage were given a welcome with all the traditional promp and ceremony of the New Zealand Maori—the indigenous people. "He expressed his "admiration for the New Zealand people in preserving and developing their folk culture." He also expressed the hope that "cultural exchanges between the two nations of Vietnam and New Zealand would develop in the future."

"On the afternoon of 25 May, the prime minister and his entourage left Rotorua for the capital, Wellington, to continue their visit to New Zealand. He was greeted on his arrival at an international airport by his New Zealand counterpart.

"In the evening, the prime minister met with over 100 New Zealand businessmen at the Parliamentary Building. Also present at his meeting were Minister of Commerce Philip Burdon and other high- ranking New Zealand officials.

"After hearing Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong describe the main aspects of the existing socioeconomic situation in Vietnam and its policy of promoting foreign investment in Vietnam, a number of businessmen highly appraised the initial results obtained by Vietnam in its renovation undertaking and its wide-open foreign policy. They expressed their readiness to cooperate in making investments in Vietnam in conformity with each country's capabilities and interests, and for the sake of peace, friendship, stability, and development in the region and the world.

"The prime minister also met with the Society of Volunteers to Help Vietnam."

Vo Van Kiet Arrives in Australia for Visit

BK2605110593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet arrived in Australia on Wednesday for a historic four-day visit. Mr. Vo Van Kiet and his party were greeted at Canberra Airport by Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating, members of the Australian Government, and the leader of the oppositions, Mr. John Hewson. It is the first time a Vietnamese prime minister has visited Australia.

While in Australia, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet will hold talks with representatives of Australian business and aid organizations, as well as with members of the Australian Government.

Australia now ranks fourth among foreign investment countries in Vietnam with 26 projects capitalized at 300 million U.S. dollars. The two countries have enjoyed close diplomatic, political, and economic ties since diplomatic relations were established in 1973.

Received by Prime Minister

BK2605122393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 26 May 93

[Report on ceremony held in Canberra on 26 May—recorded]

[Summary] "Dear friends: Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and his wife and entourage arrived in Canberra this afternoon, 26 May, starting an official visit to Australia at the invitation of Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating.

"A large number of Australian, Vietnamese, and foreign radio and television correspondents were on hand to report on this important political event in Vietnam-Australia relations.

"Prime Minister Paul Keating and his wife walked to the ramp to greet Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and his wife and entourage.

"A military band was playing music to welcome the distinguished Vietnamese guests. Next, a commanding officer of the honor guard of the Royal Australian Navy, Infantry, and Air Force came forward to greet Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and invited him to review the guard of honor. The military band was playing the national anthems of the two countries."

"Next, Prime Minister Paul Keating introduced Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet to high-ranking Australian Government officials.

"Dear friends: Following this solemn official welcoming ceremony at the airport, the Vietnamese delegation left for the Parliament House where the talks between the two government delegations will take place."

Envoy: Australia Wants More Economic Cooperation

BK2605142793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 26 May 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Australian Ambassador in Hanoi Michael Potts said his country wants to expand its economic cooperation with Vietnam. He expressed his hope that the current visit to Australia by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet will contribute to the development of cooperation between the two countries. Following is our radio editor's opinion on the matter.

According to the Australian ambassador, at present the two countries have enjoyed good relations in such fields as politics, diplomacy, and economic cooperation. Since the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1973, particularly following Australia's decision to resume its development aid for Vietnam, relations have become closer.

Australia has granted Vietnam aid worth $100 million in the period from 1992 to 1995. In 1992 alone, seven Australian delegations at ministerial levels came to Vietnam. In the field of economic cooperation, the number of important agreements involving trade, guarantee of investment, and avoiding of double taxation were signed between the two countries. Australia now ranks the fourth among foreign investment countries in Vietnam with 26 projects which are capitalized at $300 million.

The Australian ambassador said his country will renew its development aid to Vietnam for three more years with an amount of about $85 million. He said that Vietnam has adopted a fine economic policy which encourages Australian businessmen to invest more in Vietnam. The visit to Australia by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet will open up a new page in the relations between the two countries.

Do Muoi Receives Russian Deputy Prime Minister

BK2505152993 Hanoi VNA in English 1505 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 25—General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee [CPV CC] Do Muoi received here today a visiting delegation of the Russian Government led by Deputy Prime Minister Yuriy Yarov.

The Russian deputy prime minister arrived here yesterday to attend the second session of the Vietnam-Russia Inter-governmental Commission on Economic, Commercial and Scientific-Technical Cooperation of which he is chairman of the Russian section.

The Russian guests informed the Vietnamese party leader of the latest developments in Russia and the results of the commission's second session. He said that aside from a number of problems that need further discussion, the traditional bilateral friendship and cooperation will be developed with the common efforts of both sides. He also stressed that Russia will do all it can to broaden the Russian-Vietnamese economic cooperation in agriculture, energy, culture, science and other fields.

General Secretary Do Muoi welcomed his Russian guests and reaffirmed that the Vietnamese people have unswervingly been thankful to the formerly Soviet and presently Russian people for their invaluable assistance extended to them in their past and present efforts. He also said that the Vietnamese people consider the cooperation between Vietnam and Russia one that is in line with the aspiration of each people.

The Vietnamese leader also wished that the Russian people successfully overcome their immediate difficulties and trials to create favourable conditions to their national construction.

Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien, Deputy Head of the CPV CC International Department Nguyen Van Son, and Russian Ambassador to Vietnam R.L. Khamidulin were present at the reception.

Do Muoi Receives Czech, Moravia Communist Team

BK2605144193 Hanoi VNA in English 1404 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 26—A delegation of the Czech and Moravia Communist Party led by Deputy Chairman M. Grebenicek paid a working visit to Vietnam from May 20—26. The delegation also included V. Novak, secretary of the Czech and Moravia Communist Party Central Committee.

During its stay in Vietnam, the delegation paid a floral tribute to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum.

The guests were received on May 22 by General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Do Muoi, who briefed them about the important achievements recorded by the Vietnamese party and people in the current renovation process. He wished the friendly relations between the two parties and peoples would be strengthened and developed.

For his part, M. Grebenicek expressed his pleasure for his first visit to Vietnamese party and people, and affirmed the solidarity of the Czech and Moravia party and people with the Vietnamese people in their revolutionary cause.

The Czech and Moravia party delegation had talks with a Vietnamese party delegation led by Hong Ha, secretary of the party CPC Central Committee.

It had a working session with the CPV Commission for Economy, the Commission for External Relations of the National Assembly, the Vietnam Confederation of Labour, and the party committee of Ho Chi Minh City.

The guests also visited a number of economic and cultural establishments in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

President Le Duc Anh Receives Foreign Envoys

BK2505151393 Hanoi VNA in English 1501 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 25—President Le Duc Anh received on separate occasions here today Ambassadors Han Min-Chol of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Francisco Santos of the Philippines, and Jean-Francois Nougarede of France, who paid him courtesy visits.

Speaking with the DPRK ambassador, President Le Duc Anh warmly welcomed the achievements recorded by the Korean people in national construction and reaffirmed Vietnam's continued respect for its friendship and cooperation with the DPRK. He also expressed his belief that the traditional bilateral relations will be constantly consolidated and developed.

Speaking with the Philippine ambassador, President Le Duc Anh noted with joy the fine development of the Vietnamese-Philippine relations in recent years. He said he was confident that ambassador Francisco Santos will make important contributions to further strengthening these relations for the prosperity of each country and for peace, friendship and development in the region and the world as a whole. In his meeting with the French ambassador, the Vietnamese president expressed his joy at the fine development of the bilateral relations which he said was culminated in the recent visit to Vietnam by President Francois Mitterrand. He also expressed the Vietnamese people's thanks for the assistance that the French Government and people have extended to them in their national reconstruction.

Official Comments on Human Rights Policies

BK2605145593 Hanoi VNA in English 1347 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 26—A Vietnamese delegation led by Phan Quang, deputy head of the National Assembly's External Relations Commission, attended an international seminar named 'Parliament, Protector of Human Rights' held in Budapest on May 19-22.

The seminar was sponsored by the World Inter-Parliament Union in coordination with the European Parliament and the U.N. Centre on Human Rights. It drew the participation of 58 delegations from many national parliaments and international organisations.

Addressing at the seminar, the Vietnamese head delegate introduced Vietnam's comprehensive policy on human rights and its experience in the implementation of this policy. He stressed that no existing organizational and structural model for the protection of human rights can be applied wihtout modifications to any country given the fact that different countries have different levels of socio-economic development as well as different histories and traditions, in the final analysis, he continued, it is each nation, first of all, each parliament which is more qualified than any others in the making of policies and laws best suited for its people and in conformity with international laws. Human rights should not be used to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries or as a condition for foreign cooperation or aid, he said.

Australia

SRV Prime Minister Arrives for Visit 26 May

BK2605083093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0821 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Canberra, May 26 (AFP)—Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet arrived amid intensive security arrangements at the Fairbairn Airforce Base here Wednesday. The former Viet Cong commissar was welcomed by Prime Minister Paul Keating and other dignitaries as he stepped on to the tarmac to begin the first official visit by a Vietnamese leader since Saigon fell to the communists in 1975.

In a security operation even more elaborate than that for the visit last year by U.S. President George Bush, hundreds of police and airforce security guards ringed the airport perimeter and checked all vehicles as they entered. No demonstrators were in evidence, although Kiet is expected to face a large demonstration by members of Australia's predominantly anti-communist 130,000-strong Vietnamese community when he visits Parliament House Thursday.

Kiet's meetings with Australian officials will concentrate on trade, aid and business investment. However, the issue of human rights in Vietnam will also be touched on in talks with Keating, Foreign Minister Gareth Evans and other ministers. Kiet's aircraft, a plain white Ansett 767, was forced to circle the Fairbairn base for 10 minutes after an early arrival from New Zealand where he held talks with government leaders.

Along with a touring delegation of about 30 Vietnamese government and business officials, Kiet will visit Sydney and the Hunter Valley wine region of New South Wales before leaving for Vietnam on Sunday. Keating earlier met leaders of the Vietnamese community in his Parliament House office.

A spokesman for the Vietnamese community Van Son Nguyen told reporters: "We raised our concerns about human rights violations in Vietnam, and we specifically asked him to raise a few points regarding the release of political prisoners. "He said he would raise that as the number one issue on the agenda." The delegation also asked Keating to send a parliamentary human rights delegation to communist Vietnam, similar to the two missions sent to China to investigate the human rights situation there, Nguyen said.

Community leaders promised that Thurday's demonstration would be peaceful—although banners already set up called Kiet a war criminal and called on Australia to cancel a planned 100 million dollar (70 million U.S.) aid program. "We assured him the demonstration of two to three thousand Vietnamese here tomorrow will be peaceful and non-violent because we see it as our struggle not against Mr Kiet himself but against the repressive regime that is going on in Vietnam," Nguyen said. He said the aid program should go ahead only if human rights conditions were imposed on the program.

"There are about 500 political prisoners being held without trial in Vietnam and we seek the unconditional release of those prisoners of conscience," Nguyen said. The Paris-based Vietnam Committee on Human Rights this week wrote to Keating claiming that a Vietnamese Buddhist monk planned to set fire to himself unless an allegedly arrested monk was freed.

Discusses Human Rights With Keating

BK2605075693 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Representatives of the Vietnamese community in Australia say Prime Minister Paul Keating has promised human rights will top the agenda in talks tomorrow with Vietnam's prime minister, Vo Van Kiet. Mr. Keating met a group of seven Vietnamese community leaders in the capital, Canberra, today ahead of Prime Minister Kiet's arrival this afternoon.

The Vietnamese community is concerned about political and religious persecution by Vietnam's communist regime. The vice president of the Vietnamese Community Association, Van Son Nguyen, said after the meeting with Mr. Keating that the prime minister had agreed to raise human rights concerns in his talks with Mr. Kiet.

Mr. Nguyen says Mr. Keating also agreed to consider linking aid and human rights though there was no commitment. Mr. Kiet's five-day visit to Australia follows his official visit to New Zealand earlier this week.

Minister Views KR Role in Cambodian Elections

BK2505105993 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0803 GMT 25 May 93

[From the "International Report" program]

[Excerpts] In Cambodia voters continue to stream to the polling booths to cast ballots in an election that seemed destined to become a runaway success for the United Nations.

In just two days, 70 percent of voters have taken part in the election, and there are still 4 days of polling left. There is also anecdotal evidence of a shift in Khmer Rouge policy. Richard Palfreyman spoke to Trevor Watson who is in Phnom Penh and asked him what we really know about Khmer Rouge activity over the past few days.

[Begin recording] [Watson] Richard, we know for sure that Khmer Rouge soldiers voted yesterday in Poipet in the northwest of the country. We know from very senior electoral officials here in Phnom Penh that people living in Khmer Rouge-controlled zones are being given their voter registration cards [word indistinct] returned to them and told that they can leave the area to vote in another district.

I have also heard—and it is unconfirmed—that some senior Khmer Rouge officers are actually trucking voters to polling stations so that they can cast a ballot, presumably for the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party, Prince Ranarridh's party, which has promised to draw the Khmer Rouge into a government of national reconciliation if it is elected.

I think the Khmer Rouge have concluded that it has blundered on this one by not taking part in the election. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Australia's foreign minister, Gareth Evans, who was one of the architects of the Cambodian peace process, has welcomed reports that Khmer Rouge soldiers and officials, who had at first threatened to disrupt the elections, have in fact been casting votes themselves. Senator Evans says this is contrary to all expectations and fears in the run-up to the election period, in which it seemed that the radical faction was determined to create an environment of intimidation in the polls. (Maxine MacHugh) asked Senator Evans what he thought was motivating the Khmer Rouge.

[Begin recording] [Evans] It is a combination of, first of all, appreciation on their part that they lack the capacity to do more than intimidate around the edges of the mainstream security precautions that were being taken, and more than that, the extraordinary determination that was evident on the part of the Cambodian people, particularly during the course of the campaign when some 1,500 rallies were held just in the last three weeks alone in all parts of the country. I think that made them realize they were not going to succeed in the aim of discrediting the election. Therefore, it becomes a matter of scrambling to try and keep a piece of the action, potentially, after it. And what they are obviously hoping for is that the FUNCINPEC group, of which Prince Sihanouk is the originator, will be returned with the kind of majority and the will to give the Khmer Rouge [KR] a place in some reconciled sun that makes it worthwhile for them to maximize the vote for FUNCINPEC.

[(MacHugh)] Well, let's talk about that. If that is the outcome, if we see the royalist party given a mandate to govern, how would the international community cope with the royalist party which would bring in the Khmer Rouge, bring them back to power?

[Evans] Well, it's not going to be easy to do that but we have to think of what the overall strategy of this exercise has been, which is to achieve peace, and a durable peace, in the country and eventually the reconciliation of all the different elements within the country. Whether that takes five months or 35 years, that's what we want to achieve. What we would be concerned about in the international community is it is done in accordance with proper constitutional principle, and there are various ways in which this might happen.

I mean, there are plenty of constitutional systems where people can be brought in to play a role in executive government without having actually participated in a ballot for a legislature. (?America is one, for a start). There are other ways that have been talked about by some countries at the moment of creating some kind of advisory council which will sit alongside the executive government but not actually form part of it and in which all the factions, including the KR, could be represented. So, there are ways of moving that agenda forward that may not be unacceptable in principle. And I think the international community will just be playing it by ear over the next few weeks to see how this pans out.

[(MacHugh)] But the horror scenario must of course be that from a position of strength, the KR could resort to type and disrupt whatever fragile democracy there is in place.

[Evans] Well, that is more likely in the context not of the royalist party FUNCINPEC winning a majority and pursuing its reconciliation strategy, but rather the other side SOC [State of Cambodia], Hun Sen's people, winning, making it clear they are not prepared to contemplate any place in the sun at all for the KR and sending the KR back to an insurgency military role—from some people's perspective an even worse prospect than the KR actually playing a role in the government. [end recording]

Trade Minister Opposes U.S. Sanctions Against PRC

BK2605075493 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Australia's trade minister, Peter Cook, says the United States should not use trade sanctions to win human rights improvements in China. Senator Cook, in London for series of ministerial meetings with his British counterparts, told a news conference that Australia supports China's application for most-favored-nation trade status in the United States.

Sen. Cook says the best way of proceeding to get China to improve its human rights record is to allow the country to buy into the world community by having an open trade relationship.

[Begin Cook recording] I don't think that by excluding China, thereby handicapping China by some sort of qualified trade arrangements, that helps the domestic human rights issues within China. I think the agenda for us has got to be an inclusive one from a trade point of view. The better their economy performs, the more likely it is that areas of concern about human rights and human dignity will be better addressed. [end recording]

Sen. Cook also said China's human rights record should not be used as an argument against Beijing getting the 2000 Olympic games, and it was not an issue that rival bidding cities would use.

New Zealand

SRV Premier Gets Quiet Welcome at Parliament

BK2605035693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0139 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Wellington, May 26 (AFP)—A military guard of honour welcomed Wednesday Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet to parliament here, where an expected demonstration failed to materialise.

Kiet, on the last day of a three day visit, was greeted by Prime Minister Jim Bolger, deputy Prime Minister Don McKinnon and Speaker Robin Gray.

Barricades around the parliament's lawn were not needed, in the absence of any protesters. A group of some 50 former Vietnamese refugees had staged a demonstration Tuesday in the belief that was the day Kiet would arrive.

The Vietnamese prime minister told a government dinner Tuesday night he believed there were opportunities for increased New Zealand trade and investment in Vietnam.

He said Hanoi saw direct investment as the most significant form of co-operation, adding Vietnam welcomed 100 percent foreign equity in ventures and guaranteeing low tax rates for foreign companies.

"We think the New Zealand side can think of buying Vietnamese agricultural products and gourmet products that have gained a foothold in many markets the world over, including Western Europe and Japan," said Kiet.

He leaves for Australia later Wednesday.

Says Khmer Rouge Sabotage Threatens Peace

BK2605064693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0608 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] Wellington, May 26 (AFP)—Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet said here Wednesday acts of sabotage by the Khmer Rouge threatened the stability of Cambodia and urged all nations to work to maintain peace in the country.

Speaking at a press conference, Kiet said elections, which began Sunday [23 May] and end Friday [28 May], in Cambodia were generally positive.

The Khmer Rouge guerrilla group has boycotted the polls, calling them a "farce" designed to legitimise the Phnom Penh government installed by Vietnam after it invaded in late 1978 to oust a genocidal Khmer Rouge regime. The Marxist group had threatened to use violence to disrupt polling, but only a few comparatively minor incidents have been reported so far.

"For the first few days of the election we can say we are pleased with what has been happening," said Kiet.

"But there remains one problem threatening the peace and stability of Cambodia," he said, adding this was the continued threat "acts of sabotage by the Khmer Rouge."

The Vietnamese Prime Minister said that while the Cambodian settlement was first of all an issue for Cambodia, it was also important for other parties to the 1991 Paris peace agreement to contribute.

"I think it is important for you here (in New Zealand) and also world public opinion to understand what is happening now in Cambodia and not to forget it," he said.

If the Khmer Rouge continued its acts of sabotage both the position of the United Nation and the U.N. Transitional Force in Cambodia would be adversely affected, he said.

Earlier, Kiet and his New Zealand counterpart, Jim Bolger, signed an agreement aimed at expanding trade and other contacts between the two countries.

It creates an equal trade regime for both New Zealand and Vietnam, providing each country with non-discriminatory access to the other's market.

Kiet said Hanoi saw direct investment as the most significant form of co-operation, adding Vietnam welcomed 100 percent foreign equity in ventures and guaranteeing low tax rates for foreign companies.

"We think the New Zealand side can think of buying Vietnamese agricultural products and gourmet products that have gained a foothold in many markets the world over, including Western Europe and Japan," said Kiet.